ALEPH
strategies

Renewal Evaluation of the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP)

Final Report

January 2025

Acronyms

The Agreement	The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO regarding ICHCAP
Aleph	Aleph Strategies
APHEN-ICH	Asia-Pacific Higher Education Network for Safeguarding ICH
C/5	UNESCO's Approved Programme and Budget
C2C	Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO
CHA	Cultural Heritage Administration
CRIHAP	International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region
CRESPIAF	Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICHCAP	International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region
IRCI	International Research Centre for ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region
KHS	Korea Heritage Service
LHE	Living Heritage Entity
MCST	China's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NICH	Japan's National Institute for Cultural Heritage
NIHC	National Intangible Heritage Centre
RoK	Republic of Korea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRLHN	Silk Roads Living Heritage Network
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VICAS	Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies
WHIPIC	International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites

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Executive Summary

This executive summary provides an overview of the Renewal Evaluation conducted by Aleph Strategies on the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP). As a UNESCO Category 2 Centre (C2C) in Jeonju, Republic of Korea, ICHCAP supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) by enhancing the capacity for safeguarding ICH through information sharing, dissemination and regional networking, aligned with UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Purpose and Scope

This evaluation assesses ICHCAP's performance since the 2019 renewal of its Agreement with UNESCO, examining its progress in achieving objectives, aligning activities with the Agreement, contributing to UNESCO's C/5 Programme and Budget, supporting the 2003 Convention, and advancing the global development agenda. Aleph Strategies' methodology included stakeholder interviews, surveys, and an extensive review of ICHCAP's activities and outputs.

Key Findings

Achievement of Objectives: ICHCAP has significantly advanced its objectives of promoting the 2003 Convention and strengthening regional cooperation. Through key initiatives such as the ichLinks platform and the ICH Courier, the Centre has improved access to ICH resources and facilitated knowledge sharing among diverse stakeholders in the region. Challenges remain in reaching under-resourced regions and addressing barriers such as language and resource limitations.

Conformity of Activities: ICHCAP's initiatives align with the Agreement, effectively fulfilling its roles in regional information sharing and networking. ichLinks has grown to 18 contributing partners, becoming a key resource for ICH information in the Asia-Pacific region. While stakeholders appreciate the utility of these platforms, further improvements, including enhanced multilingual support and interactive features, could help ICHCAP better serve diverse communities across the region.

Contribution to UNESCO's C/5 Programme and the 2003 Convention: ICHCAP's activities contribute to UNESCO's C/5 strategic objectives, particularly in supporting cultural diversity, gender equality, and youth engagement. The Centre's initiatives, such as educational outreach, gender-inclusive programming, and the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network, have strengthened the role of ICH in education and promoted inclusive cultural safeguarding. These efforts align closely with the 2003 Convention's aims to safeguard heritage through awareness, education, and regional cooperation.

Contribution to the Global Development Agenda: ICHCAP has advanced several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a primary focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By fostering partnerships and integrating ICH into formal education systems, the Centre has bolstered regional

capacity for cultural safeguarding and supported inclusive, community-led safeguarding of heritage. Stakeholders suggest that further monitoring of ICHCAP's contributions to specific SDG targets would enhance visibility and measurement of impact.

Quality of Coordination and Interaction: ICHCAP maintains robust coordination with UNESCO, other C2Cs, and national bodies. Collaboration with the Asia-Pacific C2Cs, CRIHAP and IRCI has focused on complementary activities, such as capacity-building workshops and information-sharing initiatives. Although the centres maintain distinct mandates, alignment on broad goals offers strong potential for synergies, especially in areas like climate resilience and youth engagement.

Quality and Relevance of Partnerships: The Centre's partnerships, particularly with Korean agencies and regional institutions, have been integral to its mission. Strong collaborations with the Korean Heritage Service and local governments have supported cultural safeguarding projects, while partnerships with regional institutions like APHEN-ICH have enhanced capability to safeguard ICH across Member States. Stakeholders encourage ICHCAP to strengthen and diversify these relationships, particularly in underrepresented regions.

Governance and Management: ICHCAP's governance and management structures are efficient and well-defined, with a Governing Board comprising representatives from key stakeholders. While the Centre's staff report high satisfaction, some call for increased job security and welfare support. The Centre's rotation system between departments promotes skill development but occasionally causes external communication challenges. Increasing continuity in contact points could improve coordination with external partners.

Funding and Autonomy: ICHCAP's funding is primarily provided by the Korean government, with additional project-specific support from local partners. While the Centre has successfully managed funding fluctuations, the need for annual budget reviews limits long-term planning. A targeted fundraising strategy could enhance ICHCAP's capacity to secure more flexible and sustainable funding, allowing greater responsiveness to emerging needs. ICHCAP operates autonomously within its legal framework, though external stakeholders note a cautious approach to decision-making due to pressures from core funders.

Recommendations

Enhance Community Engagement: To address barriers in reaching underrepresented regions, ICHCAP should explore hybrid methods that combine digital platforms with on-the-ground outreach. Building sustained partnerships with local liaisons could facilitate long-term community engagement.

Expand Digital Engagement: Enhancing the ichLinks platform with interactive features, such as forums, could increase user engagement and foster collaborative knowledge sharing among ICH practitioners, researchers, and communities.

Strengthen Network Support: ICHCAP has established effective networks; delegating more project control to local institutions could further empower these partners to tailor programmes to regional needs and build leadership in ICH safeguarding.

Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies: To support greater innovation and flexibility, ICHCAP should consider expanding its donor base. A dedicated fundraising role could improve ICHCAP's ability to secure project-specific funding and enhance the sustainability of its initiatives.

Integrate Comprehensive Impact Evaluation: Developing and implementing impact indicators within a broader evaluation framework will enable ICHCAP to measure and communicate its achievements in ICH safeguarding more effectively.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Purpose

Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2C) have been created to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives by way of global, regional, subregional, and interregional activities. Funded by Member States, they are not legally part of the organisation, but are associated with it through formal agreements between UNESCO and the Member State hosting the centre. They are intended to serve as international or regional centres and poles of expertise or excellence to provide technical assistance and services to Member States, cooperation partners and to the network of UNESCO field offices.

Aleph Strategies was commissioned by the Living Heritage Entity (LHE) to carry out the Renewal Evaluation of the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), a C2C located in Jeonju, Republic of Korea (RoK). The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea (RoK) and UNESCO regarding the establishment in the RoK of ICHCAP was renewed in December 2019 (with the renewal evaluation conducted in 2016).

1.2. Scope of the Evaluation

This evaluation was carried out following the modalities outlined in UNESCO's 2012 Guidance Note on the renewal assessment procedures of C2Cs (190 EX/INF 16). To provide a holistic assessment of ICHCAP's activities since the renewal, Aleph has created an Evaluation Index to structure the data collection and analysis, articulated around 9 pillars:

- Achievement of Objectives
- Conformity of Activities
- Contribution to UNESCO's Programme (C/5) and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)
- Contribution to the Global Development Agenda
- Quality of Coordination and Interaction
- Quality and Relevance of Partnerships
- Governance
- Funding
- Autonomy

For each of these pillars, we collected and analysed data to assess performance based on a scale from 1=poor; 2=satisfactory and 3=good.

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1.3. Methodology

We have tailored the methodology from recent evaluations of other C2Cs, such as the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia – Bulgaria), the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF) in Algeria, the International Research Centre for ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) in Japan and the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) in Republic of Korea, to fit the specificities of ICHCAP. The complete methodology can be found in Annex 4.2.

2. Findings

Our analysis shows that since the renewal agreement in 2019, ICHCAP has made significant progress in achieving its objectives of enhancing the capacity for safeguarding ICH through information sharing, dissemination and regional networking. While challenges remain in areas such as community engagement, diversification of funding and collaborations with other C2Cs, the centre's activities align with UNESCO's strategy and the goals of the 2003 Convention and contribute to the broader global development agenda. Overall, ICHCAP is well-positioned to continue its role as a key player in safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region and **we strongly recommend the renewal of the Agreement.**

2.1. Achievement of Objectives

Overall, ICHCAP has made notable progress in achieving its core objectives, particularly in promoting the 2003 Convention and fostering regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

2.1.1. Promotion and Implementation of the 2003 Convention

ICHCAP has consistently focused on conducting awareness-raising activities across the Asia-Pacific region through various initiatives, such as webinars, workshops or the ICH Courier, a quarterly magazine disseminating information and news related to the region's ICH, highlighting valuable assets, and sharing timely information about community efforts to safeguard intangible heritage. One of their main achievements in sharing ICH content is ichLinks, a one-stop online platform that enables users to access a wide range of ICH information and content shared by Member States in the Asia-Pacific region. The platform also fosters interaction among various ICH stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and practitioners. A survey conducted amongst partner institutions in Member States (26 responses) showed that 92.3% of the respondents consider that

ICHCAP's activities have greatly contributed to the promotion of the Convention in the region, and these were also confirmed through interviews, where respondents frequently mentioned that these activities increased their understanding of the Convention and related safeguarding practices. In general, respondents praised the digital tools as well as the networking initiatives and conferences, with 96,1% of the survey respondents rating the quality as good (26,9%) or excellent (69,2%).

Furthermore, countries like Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh have highlighted ICHCAP's role in helping them align their national frameworks with the Convention, through specific initiatives like data collection workshops and the development of ICH inventories. Still, some States, particularly in Central Asia and the Pacific, require further support to fully integrate the Convention's principles into their national frameworks. Survey results show that 92,3% of the respondents found ICHCAP's support effective (38,5%) or very effective (53,8%) in supporting their institution's efforts to align with the Convention.

The Centre has also been a great supporter of Periodic Reporting under the 2003 Convention as they co-organised a capacity-building workshop in February-March 2024. The workshop gathered almost 100 focal points for periodic reporting from more than 30 Member States in the region along with UNESCO representatives from the Secretariat and field offices, as well as ten facilitators, tasked with supporting groups of countries in their reporting tasks. The workshop enabled participants to gain an understanding of periodic report writing, focusing on the new results-based approach rather than the previous activity-based reporting. It also clarified the updated submission process, which has shifted from an individual submission every six years to a regional reporting cycle. In this cycle, State Parties submit their national reports individually by 15 December every six years, sharing the submission date with other countries in their region, with 2024 marking the submission period for the Asia-Pacific region.

The main challenges identified through the data collected on ICHCAP's activities are the language barrier and limited resources that prevent the activities to reach some communities, especially in the Pacific or Central Asia. Moreover, some respondents called for more regular follow-up and technical assistance to ensure long-term sustainability of activities.

2.1.2. Increasing Participation of Communities, Groups, and Individuals in Safeguarding ICH

Community engagement and gender equality have been identified as some of the main challenges in ICHCAP's objectives, but the Centre has demonstrated a commitment to increasing community involvement in its activities. Survey results show that 76,9% of the respondents felt that ICHCAP's activities have greatly contributed to increase participation of communities in safeguarding ICH. Programmes like the ICH Youth Forum, ICH Field Schools, and the ICH Video Production Projects have been instrumental in engaging communities across the region. Interviews with ICHCAP staff and external stakeholders working with communities showed that their work has enabled local communities to document and share their cultural practices more broadly, especially through ichLinks. This has not only increased the visibility of local traditions, but also fostered a stronger sense of ownership among participants, particularly in the digital space. ICHCAP's efforts have also focused on promoting inclusivity, as seen in the participation rates of women in key programmes such as the ICH Courier, which went up to 60% in 2022 and 50% in 2023.

However, the Centre still faces challenges in sustaining deeper, long-term community engagement. One significant issue highlighted by respondents is the Centre's mandate, which focuses on regional coordination and information sharing rather than direct community intervention, limiting ICHCAP's ability to maintain continuous, hands-on engagement with local communities. Respondents also pointed out the logistical challenges, including financial constraints and language barriers, particularly in remote areas where communities may lack the resources to remain engaged in digital initiatives. Stakeholders from countries like Bhutan, Tajikistan, or Pacific Islands, have highlighted that the fact that the Centre has struggled to adapt its programmes to the evolving needs of indigenous and marginalised communities who are underrepresented in decision-making processes.

2.1.3. Enhancement of the Capacity for the Safeguarding ICH through Information Coordination and Dissemination.

ICHCAP has been successful in disseminating a wide range of ICH-related information through multiple platforms, including digital tools such as the ichLinks platform, which has emerged as an essential tool in providing decentralised access to ICH data, with more than 18 member organisations contributing to and managing content. Respondents reported that they appreciate the platform's user-friendly nature and its role in making ICH information more accessible but highlighted the need for continuous content updates and technical support for local contributors.

Since the renewal Agreement, the Centre has produced a wealth of ICH-related resources as shown in Table 1. ICHCAP's capacity to maintain a consistent flow of high-quality content has been noted as a strength by external stakeholders (UNESCO staff and partner organisations), contributing significantly to raising awareness about ICH. Again, accessing communities in remote areas has been highlighted as a limitation as internet connection is not always available.

Table 1. Project Results between 2019 and 2023

Categories			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Information	Collecting	Survey	1	1	1	21	3
		ICH Data	1	7	10	3,758	1,200
		Case Studies	1	1	0	0	1
	Publications	ICH Publications	28	28	28	28	27
		UNESCO Brochure	1	0	0	0	0
		Meeting Proceedings	7	4	12	3	5
		Books	0	0	2	1	2
		Living Heritage Series	1	1	1	1	1
		Others	6	3	2	7	2
	Audio-Visual Content	ICH Online Contents	50	31	310	720	254
		Websites	0	3	9	8	11
		Digitised Collections	7	0	0	0	0
		Videos	40	60	66	26	36
		Festivals and Exhibitions	1	2	4	4	13
Network	Public Events	Network Meetings	3	1	5	3	9
		Experts and Working Level Meetings	10	11	7	11	12
		Workshops	2	2	2	9	11
		Governing Boards and Others	5	5	6	5	5
	Meeting Participation	UNESCO-related meetings	10	5	8	6	5
		RoK C2C Meetings	0	0	1	1	3
	Personnel Exchange	Programmes	7	1	1	1	1
		Correspondents	70	30	20	20	0
	ichLinks	Partners Organisations	0	7	10	16	18

Moreover, ICHCAP has supported several capacity-building programmes, such as training for teachers, the Youth ICH Forum, and the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Living heritage and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with UNESCO and the SDG Academy. Data collected through the survey

and interviews suggests that these initiatives were well received and significantly enhanced the understanding of ICH safeguarding practices in the region.

2.1.4. Foster Regional and International Cooperation for Safeguarding ICH

ICHCAP has established several networks that have been crucial in fostering regional and international cooperation for safeguarding ICH. Among these are the:

- **Asia-Pacific Higher Education Network for Safeguarding ICH (APHEN-ICH):** This network brings together 23 universities and academic institutions to promote research, teaching, and capacity-building activities related to ICH. It supports academic exchange programmes and collaborative research projects. These activities have been critical in enhancing the capacity of academic institutions to integrate ICH into their curricula, helping to build a new generation of cultural heritage specialists.

- **Primary Education Network:** Composed of 13 primary school teachers with whom they gather monthly to discuss how to integrate ICH safeguarding in teaching. They created syllabus and provided pilot classes to students, the idea being to expand it to secondary education as well.

- **Silk Roads Living Heritage Network (SRLHN):** The network, created in 2021, aims at promoting the value of ICH and contributes to the economic development of communities through strategic activities (ICH festivals, promotion of sustainable tourism and cooperation on shared cultural heritage) along the Silk Roads in Central and West Asia and Korea. This network has been key to facilitate cross-border collaboration, helping member states to address shared challenges and opportunities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage.

- **ICH NGO Forum:** The network was not established by ICHCAP, but the Centre supports its activities to provide a space for NGOs to collaborate on ICH safeguarding efforts. It has been a crucial instrument in ICHCAP's objective to engage civil society actors, allowing them to participate in discussions about policy development and community-based safeguarding practices.

ICHCAP has also facilitated multiple regional and international projects to facilitate collaboration between countries by organising experts' meetings, sub-regional meetings, and regional and international forums such as the World Forum for ICH or the ICH Youth Forum. These initiatives have been a platform for member states to share updates on their implementation of the 2003 Convention and have been key to maintaining a cohesive regional approach to ICH safeguarding.

While these networks have successfully brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, interviews with partner organisations also revealed areas for improvement. Stakeholders have highlighted the need for more consistent follow-up communication after major events and for greater efforts to include underrepresented regions, such as the Pacific Islands. There is also a call for more targeted initiatives that address the specific cultural and linguistic needs of smaller communities, ensuring that the benefits of regional networks extend to all participants.

2.2. Conformity of the Centre's Activities with the Agreement

ICHCAP's activities have largely respected the terms of the Agreement and the Centre has fulfilled its role of information-sharing and networking on ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region.

2.2.1. Establishment of Mechanisms for Effective Information Sharing related to ICH Safeguarding

As noted above, ICHCAP has established multiple platforms for information sharing, with ichLinks being the most prominent one. The platform has indeed become a repository for cultural heritage information in the region, growing considerably since the renewal of the Agreement (from 0 to 18 partner organisations contributing between 2019 and 2023 as shown in Table 1) and increasing access to ICH data. The platform has also fostered a collaborative digital environment for cultural institutions across the region. In addition to ichLinks, ICHCAP has used the ICH Courier and the ICH Plus+ e-newsletter to provide updates and highlight best practices and case studies. Finally, ICHCAP has also used social media channels (YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram) to reach broader and more diverse audiences, especially the youth, with ICH stories and documentaries and broadcast events.

Interviews with stakeholders from cultural institutions have highlighted that these platforms are useful tools to access best practices and data on ICH safeguarding. They emphasised the value of being able to directly contribute to ichLinks' content. Survey responses also reflected a high level of satisfaction with the accessibility of both ichLinks and the ICH Courier, identified as critical resources in the region. Again, areas for improvement include the need for multilingual resources to reach sub-regions like Central Asia or the Pacific, the introduction of more localised content and the need to add interactive features to ichLinks, such a forums or discussion boards that could facilitate direct interaction between practitioners, scholars, and community members.

2.2.2. Promotion and Publicity of ICH Information for Awareness Raising

Annual reports provide a snapshot of ICHCAP's activities' engagement and between 2020 and 2023, the Centre has made significant strides in leveraging digital platforms to reach a broad audience. The use of digital tools like the ichLinks platform, ICH Plus+ e-newsletter, and ICH Courier has allowed ICHCAP to maintain consistent engagement with stakeholders, even during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person activities were limited. By 2023, the ICH Plus+ e-newsletter had reached 1,896 subscribers, while the ICH Courier reached 5,500 readers globally. Additionally, ICHCAP's social media efforts on platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook garnered 278,182 views in 2022 and 64 000 engagements in 2023. These figures underscore the importance of these platforms as vital channels for knowledge dissemination and engagement with a diverse audience across the Asia-Pacific region, particularly targeting the youth.

Figure 1. Engagement and Subscriptions on ICHCAP's Digital Tools
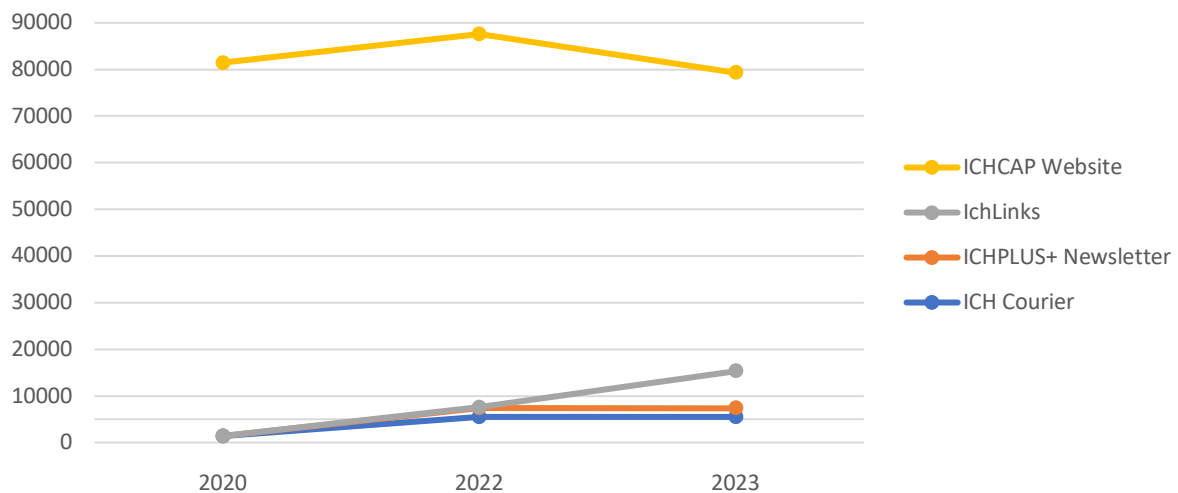
2.2.3. Building and maintaining Networks among ICH Communities, Groups, NGOs, and Civil Society

ICHCAP has been pivotal in establishing and supporting networks in ICH safeguarding across the region. Key networks include the APHEN-ICH, the SRLHN and the ICH NGO Forum. The Centre also cultivates more than 40 partnerships with institutional partners (including ministries, foundations, research centres and CSOs) across the region as well as with UNESCO entities. Survey results and interviews showed that these networks and partnerships are effective tools to build regional capacity for ICH safeguarding, especially through joint projects and the facilitation of knowledge exchange. Interactions within these networks occur regularly through annual meetings, webinars, forums, and regional

conferences. Data collection indicates that many stakeholders appreciate the consistency of these interactions, which have been crucial in maintaining momentum for regional ICH safeguarding efforts, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Feedback from survey respondents highlights that while the frequency of interactions is generally seen as sufficient, there is a desire for more localised, context-specific meetings that address the unique needs of different communities within the network. Additionally, some stakeholders suggested the need for improved digital communication tools to facilitate ongoing dialogue and collaboration beyond formal meetings.

2.2.4. Exchanging Information and Knowledge among Relevant Actors and Institutions

Workshops, conferences, and symposiums have been a key part of ICHCAP's strategy to build local capacity for ICH safeguarding. In 2020, efforts to enhance capacities focused on regions like Southeast Asia and Central Asia, with smaller groups of participants in targeted workshops. In 2022, the Centre organised 9 different workshops and conferences totalling 11 885 beneficiaries (a total of 10 840 online viewers participated in the World Forum for ICH on YouTube). By 2023, ICHCAP further expanded its reach with initiatives like the 1st and 2nd Capacity-Building Workshop on Traditional Crafts in Kyrgyz Republic, which involved 100 participants, including government officials and NGOs or the APHEN-ICH Workshop that reunited 2 745 participants (54,6% of which were women). This growth in participation reflects the Centre's increasing emphasis on enhancing regional capacities and skill development in ICH safeguarding. ICHCAP has collaborated with the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) on various capacity-building programmes. These joint efforts have focused on training workshops related to ICH documentation, inventory creation, and community engagement, providing participants with practical skills and insights into safeguarding practices.

Over the three years, ICHCAP has involved a diverse range of stakeholders in its activities, from government officials and NGOs to students, experts, and community members. The 2023 International Forum on Central Asian Traditional New Year Celebrations and the Symposium on Good Practices of Traditional Crafts exemplify this approach, bringing together representatives from multiple countries to share cultural knowledge and best practices. The inclusion of craftsmen and local experts in these events has been particularly important for ensuring that traditional skills and practices are safeguarded and shared. According to survey results, these activities have positively impacted participants' capacity to safeguard ICH, with stakeholders highlighting the value of the MOOC and in-person workshops for deepening their understanding of ICH principles.

2.3. Contribution to UNESCO's C/5

The Centre's activities largely align with UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2022/2025 (41 C/5) as well as with the Medium-term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the 2003 Convention.

2.3.1. Alignment with UNESCO's Programme and Strategy

In its five-year Programmes and Strategies (2022-2026), ICHCAP states that it plans to implement activities for "5.CLT4. Member States and communities' capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard, and promote living heritage" and "5. CLT5. Member States and civil society capacities strengthened to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions through dynamic and inclusive cultural and creative industries" with the aim to achieve "Outcome 5. Enhance the protection and promotion of the diversity of heritage and cultural expressions" under 41 C/5 Major Programme IV. Culture. The table below outlines ICHCAP's key strategic directions, demonstrating their alignment with specific C/5 references (paragraphs).

Table 2. Alignment of Activities with C/5

Activities	C/5 Reference
Building information competencies, contributing to the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention and strengthening its governance through ichLinks.	05009, 05043, 05044, 05045 and 05046.
Promoting cultural diversity and creative industries by supporting the safeguarding of ICH.	05049, 08010, 08034
Youth participation in safeguarding cultural heritage through the various education networks, the children festival and digital content creation programmes.	05017, 05018, 05046, 08012
Addressing gender inequality and empowering women by engaging them in ICH safeguarding processes and promoting gender-inclusive systems.	05017, 05052
Enhancing the capacities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by supporting Pacific Islands with digital tools and capacity-building programmes.	05018, 05019
Empowering Indigenous Communities and Indigenous Knowledge by providing them tools and opportunities to safeguard their knowledge, language, and cultural heritage and by sharing these.	05046, 05047, 05062, 08029, 08032
Media and Information literacy (MIL) development by creating content and disseminating it.	08042, 08043, 08044
Climate change adaptation through ICH knowledge by promoting ICH practices and sharing best practices.	05008, 05044, 05034

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Education opportunities and awareness through ICH by integrating ICH into education systems.	08007, 08011
Strengthening partnerships for ICH safeguarding by establishing and supporting networks and offering forums for discussions amongst practitioners.	05046, 05053, 08012

The 2023 Governing Board Meeting highlighted ICHCAP's contributions to UNESCO's strategic framework, particularly in fostering regional cooperation and digital transformation for ICH information sharing. Stakeholders noted in survey responses that while ICHCAP's efforts align well with UNESCO's broader goals, there is room to further integrate gender equality and inclusive participation in all programmes, reflecting UNESCO's emphasis on inclusivity and equal access.

2.3.2. Alignment with 2003 Convention

ICHCAP's work is led by the principles outlined in the 2003 Convention. Through information-sharing and networking, the Centre helps member states design and implement ICH safeguarding measures, ensuring that national-level policies support the sustainable transmission of ICH as outlined in article 13 of the Convention. By organising education workshops, producing digital content (especially the MOOC on Living Heritage and Sustainable Development), and running platforms such as ichLinks, ICHCAP enhances the visibility of ICH, encouraging public engagement and participation (article 14 on education, awareness-raising, and strengthens institutional capability). Moreover, the Centre has developed innovative programmes and platforms to promote best practices and facilitate knowledge-sharing for safeguarding ICH (article 18). ICHCAP also support several key paragraphs of the Operational Directives (OD) of the Convention, including paragraph 109 (the Centre collects, documents, archives, and conserves data on ICH and raises public awareness by providing access to ICH materials through digital archives, publications, and platforms like ichLinks) and 123 (the Centre functions as a clearinghouse for ICH information, maintaining and updating databases and an information management system; they facilitate the exchange of information among communities, civil society, NGOs, and research institutions; they organise and participate in workshops, seminars, and international conferences to provide information about the 2003 Convention, promoting its core objectives and fostering collaborations among participants). Interviews and survey results also confirms the alignment of ICHCAP's activities with the Convention, notably through their workshops and digital resources aimed at building the capacity of heritage practitioners and community members. Indeed, the Centre has effectively integrated the 2003 Convention's objectives related to transmission and education into its activities.

2.3.3. Integration of ICH into formal and non-formal education

ICHCAP has made significant progress in integrating Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements into both formal and non-formal educational programmes across the Asia-Pacific region. This integration is evident through initiatives like the ICH Youth Forum, teacher training workshops, and partnerships with educational networks such as APHEN-ICH. A key aspect of ICHCAP's efforts includes the creation of curriculums specifically designed for teachers, aiming to equip educators with the tools and resources needed to effectively teach ICH concepts in their classrooms, promoting an intergenerational transmission of intangible cultural heritage knowledge.

Interviews with partner organisations and survey results shows that stakeholders appreciate ICHCAP's efforts in providing digital learning resources through platforms like the MOOC on Living Heritage and Sustainable Development, which have expanded access to ICH knowledge for both students and teachers. Collaborative efforts with partners such as CRIHAP have also been critical in developing training materials and workshops aimed at equipping educators with the skills needed to teach ICH effectively. However, some stakeholders have suggested the need for more context-specific educational content, which could be tailored to the unique cultural practices of diverse communities. This would ensure that ICH education is more relevant and impactful at the local level.

2.4. Contribution to the Global Development Agenda

ICHCAP strategy and activities demonstrate strong contribution to specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets through its safeguarding efforts:

- **SDG 4.7 (Quality Education)** is addressed through ICHCAP's focus on fostering digital and physical settings for enhanced formal/non-formal education on living heritage, such as MOOCs, teacher training workshops, and collaborations with APHEN-ICH, which aim to integrate intangible cultural heritage (ICH) into education systems and promote intergenerational transmission of knowledge.
- **SDG 5.5 (Gender Equality)** is addressed by empowering female ICH practitioners and showcasing their contributions to cultural heritage.
- **SDG 11.4 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** is supported through projects like the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network, which fosters regional collaboration and cultural exchange, thereby contributing to sustainable community development and the safeguarding of cultural practices

- **SDG 16.10 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** by ensuring public access to information regarding international instruments and national institutions for ICH safeguarding, as well as heritage itself.

- **SDG 17.9 (Partnerships for the Goals)** is a core component of ICHCAP's strategy, demonstrated by its extensive partnerships with UNESCO C2Cs, CRIHAP, and various cultural institutions across the Asia-Pacific region. These partnerships enable ICHCAP to share resources, expertise, and best practices, strengthening the global network of ICH stakeholders.

ICHCAP is also contributing to broader UN agendas such as climate resilience and disaster recovery; social inclusion and peacebuilding; youth engagement, participation, and advocacy; technology, innovation, and capacity-building; overcoming technological challenges. Interviews with external stakeholders highlights the recognition of ICHCAP's contribution to the 2030 Agenda and its role in fostering international collaboration. However, some suggestions include the need for more monitoring and reporting mechanisms to measure the impact of its activities on achieving specific SDG targets.

2.5. Quality of Coordination and Interaction

The quality of coordination and interaction with UNESCO is good at all levels and has considerably improved since the renewal of the Agreement in 2019. Overall, ICHCAP's work has been praised and interviews with the Centre and UNESCO staff indicate a high degree of satisfaction. The Centre maintains regular communication with key stakeholders across UNESCO HQ, Field Offices, National Commissions and other C2Cs and these interactions are marked by responsiveness, professionalism, and a commitment to advancing the safeguarding of ICH through both collaborative initiatives and strategic partnerships.

2.5.1. With UNESCO

ICHCAP has established formal channels of communication with UNESCO LHE in Paris, ensuring the timely exchange of updates regarding ongoing projects and ICH safeguarding activities in the Asia-Pacific region. UNESCO staff appreciate the consistency of this communication, as ICHCAP regularly participates in meetings and contributes to reporting on regional initiatives. However, challenges in collaboration have been noted, particularly in the organisation of workshops and events. For instance, ICHCAP expressed difficulties in securing UNESCO representation for a workshop in Bhutan due to budget constraints.

ICHCAP also maintains regular communication with UNESCO Field Offices, especially Beijing (sitting on their board) and Bangkok, coordinating joint activities and regional ICH safeguarding initiatives. There are no clear communication plans established but all respondents reported that the interactions are easy and professional. A few respondents highlighted the confusion caused by the rotation of staff within the Centre (addressed in the Governance and Management section below) and requested for more in-person meetings. The National Commission in the RoK also reported excellent interactions with ICHCAP, reporting that they receive timely and accurate information relevant to ICH safeguarding efforts, contributing to effective decision-making processes. Furthermore, according to UNESCO staff, ICHCAP has demonstrated responsiveness in addressing requests for information, ensuring that necessary documentation and updates are provided promptly and accurately.

2.5.2. With other C2Cs

Each C2C has a distinct primary mandate: ICHCAP focuses on information sharing and networking, CRIHAP on capacity-building, and IRCI on research. While these centres have unique areas of expertise, their missions intersect in safeguarding ICH, creating natural opportunities for collaboration and joint projects across the Asia-Pacific region.

Indeed, ICHCAP collaborates regularly with the other C2Cs for the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, CRIHAP and the International Research Centre for ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) in Japan as they sit on each other's boards. They also participate in each other's events and activities on an ad-hoc basis but, besides an annual coordination meeting, there is no evidence of formal strategic alignment between them. ICHCAP is currently collaborating with CRIHAP on capacity-building activities, such as the case study collection of *ICH Safeguarding for Sustainable Development from the Asia-Pacific region* as well as the *Capacity Building Workshop on Teaching and Learning with East Asian Shared Heritage* which are both expected in November 2024. They have also worked together on the Periodic Reporting Training (ICHCAP organised an in-person workshop while CRIHAP held online sessions). Interviewees reported that although the centres operate in distinct domains, their broader missions often intersect, leading to areas where mandates overlap. For instance, both IRCI and ICHCAP are engaged in promoting regional collaboration and research. Also, ICHCAP focuses on enhancing capacity through coordination and dissemination of information while CRIHAP focuses on capacity-building, which has created situations where both centres are involved in organising similar events without coordinated strategic planning. The directors of these centres have recognised this issue and discussed the need for greater coordination, particularly regarding joint projects and event planning, during the 11th annual meeting of Category 2 Centres in Bulgaria. One of the key challenges in achieving closer

alignment is the difference in project timelines; while IRCI operates multi-year research projects, ICHCAP follows an annual workplan, which complicates long-term strategic coordination. Despite these overlaps, the potential for synergies remains high, especially in areas such as youth engagement and thematic initiatives related to climate change and disaster resilience. Beyond the centres working on the Asia-Pacific region, the Centre organised an expert meeting on safeguarding living heritage and building resilience to climate change in Western and Central Asia with the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding ICH in West and Central Asia in Tehran (Iran) in October 2023 in Isfahan.

Data collected also revealed that ICHCAP has close collaborations with other C2Cs in Korea, through a domestic network. The Centre works with them on topics such as education or climate change and they meet regularly (four times in 2024). Finally, ICHCAP has also incubated the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), another C2C established in 2022. This initiative strengthens the heritage safeguarding framework by expanding the network of institutions focused on both tangible and intangible heritage, further demonstrating ICHCAP's leadership role in fostering heritage protection in the region.

2.6. Quality and Relevance of Partnerships

2.6.1. With Korean Government Agencies

ICHCAP has effectively maintained strong partnerships with key Korean government agencies, contributing significantly to national and regional ICH safeguarding initiatives. Evidence presented below illustrates that these partnerships have been important in advancing projects related to digital documentation, ICH inventory development, and cultural heritage awareness programs. Their primary partner is the Korea Heritage Service (KHS), formerly Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA), who funds them and provides administrative services. In accordance with the Agreement, KHS appoints Director General of ICHCAP in consultation with UNESCO's Director General and they also sit on their Governing Board and Executive Committee.

ICHCAP's offices are in the National Intangible Heritage Center (NIHC) in Jeonju, whose director sits on their Executive Committee, from whom they received funding for the organisation of the ICH World Forum since 2019, and with whom they collaborate to organise World Children's Festival for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Jeonju. NIHC also contributes to the ichLinks platform. Other national stakeholders include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) who sits on the Governing Board as well as the Korea Heritage Agency (established under KHS).

Data collected highlighted the positive perception of these partnerships, describing a mutually beneficial relationship, particularly in areas such as digital heritage safeguarding and regional collaboration. These partnerships peaked in the organisation of the 20th Anniversary of the 2003 Convention (co-hosted by MOFA and KHS), which was considered a great success by UNESCO, the RoK and ICHCAP and resulted in the adoption of the Seoul Vision, presenting a set of concrete actions required to unleash the power of living heritage to ensure sustainable development and peace for enhancing solidarity and inclusion, for preserving biodiversity and oceans, and for responding to health-social and economic crises.

Respondents from government agencies reported that communication with ICHCAP is characterised by its timeliness, clarity, and openness, enabling efficient resolution of issues that may arise. Regular meetings, coordinated updates, and transparent reporting mechanisms are in place to ensure that the needs are addressed.

2.6.2 With Participating Institutions from Member States

Since the last renewal, ICHCAP has made significant strides in expanding its network of participating institutions from Member States, fostering new partnerships while strengthening existing ones. These collaborations have been instrumental in the regional implementation of the 2003 Convention and in advancing ICH safeguarding efforts across the Asia-Pacific region. The main participating institutions include cultural ministries, national heritage organisations, and academic institutions. Notable partnerships include collaborations with the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) and Dhaka University, which have benefitted from ICHCAP's technical support in building digital heritage databases and conducting regional ICH workshops. Survey respondents widely perceive these partnerships as mutually beneficial. ICHCAP is recognised for providing technical assistance, training opportunities, and networking platforms, which have enhanced the capacities of participating institutions to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage. The Centre's ability to connect institutions across different Member States has also been highlighted as a key strength, facilitating knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices in heritage safeguarding.

However, some respondents expressed the need for more frequent engagement and long-term planning to deepen the impact of these collaborations. While ICHCAP's support is appreciated,

stakeholders suggested that greater consistency in engagement and clearer long-term strategies could enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of these partnerships.

ICHCAP has also demonstrated a proactive approach to seeking new partnerships and strengthening collaboration through initiatives like the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network and joint efforts with UNESCO-accredited NGOs. These collaborations are typically long-term, fostering ongoing exchanges of knowledge and sustainable collaboration in ICH safeguarding across the region. The Centre's commitment to expanding its network and engaging more deeply with Member State institutions continues to drive progress in the safeguarding of ICH.

2.6.3. With donors

Beyond its primary funding from the Korean government, ICHCAP has established relationships with other donors, including the cities of Jeonju and Dangjin, which provide additional financial support for specific activities and initiatives. This local funding helps to support programmes related to cultural safeguarding and community engagement within these regions.

These partnerships with Jeonju and Dangjin are particularly significant as they enable ICHCAP to maintain a strong national presence and align its activities with local cultural heritage safeguarding efforts. For example, support from Jeonju has facilitated ICHCAP's involvement in regional ICH festivals and workshops, while funding from Dangjin has enabled community-based documentation projects.

ICHCAP's relationship with these donors is viewed as positive, with regular communication ensuring that goals remain aligned, and that funding is utilised effectively.

2.7. Governance and Management

2.7.1. Efficiency of the Governance Arrangements

The governance structure of ICHCAP is clear and has improved since the renewal of the Agreement according to UNESCO respondents. The Governing Board is composed of a diverse range of stakeholders, including the Administrator of the KHS, representatives from UNESCO, Japan's National Institute for Cultural Heritage (NICH), China's Ministry of Culture, Sport, and Tourism (MCST), the National Heritage Board of Singapore, the Secretary General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, and the Director-General of ICHCAP. This composition ensures that the governance structure reflects a wide variety of regional and cultural perspectives and aligns with the expectations outlined in the Agreement. Additionally, ICHCAP's governance includes an Executive Committee, comprising key figures from KHS, Korea's MOFA, Korea Heritage Agency (KHA), the National Intangible Heritage Center

(NIHC), and ICHCAP's Director-General. This committee plays a crucial role in operational decision-making and strategic oversight. According to the Constitution of ICHCAP, the Governing Board also meets annually, allowing member states to review the Centre's strategic direction and make adjustments based on evolving regional needs.

The Centre also has an advisory board composed of an advisor on culture from the Culture, Plan & Evaluation Institute of Korea (an academic institution) and one on public relations from the Korea Educational Broadcasting System who have worked with them since its establishment. While the governance structure is generally seen as effective, some survey respondents have suggested that increasing representation from other sub-regions and civil society organisations could further enhance the breadth of perspectives. This would ensure that governance continues to adapt to the greatly diverse cultural landscapes of the region. The transparency of the governance process is supported by provisions that require meeting minutes and decisions made by the Board to be shared with the Board members. However, feedback indicates that there is room to further enhance transparency by providing more detailed documentation of board deliberations and offering interactive sessions to explain board decisions to a broader audience. Strengthening these aspects would foster greater trust, accountability, and participation among Member States and stakeholders.

2.7.2. Efficiency of Management and Human Resources

ICHCAP's management structure is well-defined, with clear lines of communication and distinct roles across its various departments. The Secretariat, headed by the Director General, is the operational arm responsible for implementing programmes, managing day-to-day operations, and coordinating with key stakeholders. It is divided into thematic departments:

- The Office of Strategic Development (7 people)
- The Office of Planning and Management, which comprises the Ethics Management team (7 people)
- The Office of Information and Research, which includes the Digital Content Development team (6 people)
- The Office of Cooperation and Networking (8 people).

This organisation allows for specialisation and ensure that ICHCAP can effectively address a wide range of needs. Interviews with ICHCAP's staff confirmed that the structure is functional and facilitates efficient workflow, with easy communication across departments. Each team is headed by a director and each project by a project manager. In total, ICHCAP has 30 employees (including an intern and an

Associate Expert), with technical expertise and clear job responsibilities. Interviews suggested that there could be more staff with project management/implementation expertise. The average employment expectancy is 7.6 years, showing a strong commitment to the organisation. The Constitution stipulates that ICHCAP should evaluate staff performance to ensure alignment with strategic goals. While these have not been mentioned in the interviews, the rotation between departments suggest that these evaluations may have been conducted.

Furthermore, most staff members come from other cities and have highlighted the need for an improved welfare system that provides additional support for relocation, helping them to manage the challenges of being away from their families and adjusting to a new environment. This issue has already improved since 2023 as they are now all based in Jeonju in the same office while they had two offices in two different cities before. Despite these challenges, staff generally report high levels of satisfaction with their roles and responsibilities.

In addition to the existing management structure, ICHCAP operates a system of staff rotation between departments every three years. This system is generally appreciated by staff, as it provides opportunities for professional growth and development by allowing employees to gain experience across different departments. The rotation system fosters a deeper understanding of the organisation's various functions and promotes internal collaboration. However, while this internal rotation benefits staff, it has created some challenges in external communication. Feedback from certain external stakeholders suggests that the rotation can be confusing, as they are sometimes uncertain about whom to contact for specific projects or ongoing collaborations. This occasional lack of continuity in contact points can slow down communication, particularly for external partners who are less familiar with ICHCAP's internal structure. Nevertheless, the system has been largely beneficial in enhancing internal expertise and building a more adaptable workforce, contributing to the overall efficiency and dynamism of the Centre.

2.7.3. Efficiency of Accountability Mechanisms

ICHCAP has implemented several mechanisms to ensure accountability and alignment with both UNESCO's strategic goals and its own objectives. While the Centre does not employ a rigid framework for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), it adapts UNESCO's Capacity-building workshop survey form to suit the specific needs of each project. This flexible approach allows ICHCAP to gather feedback and assess outcomes on a project-by-project basis, without being confined to a single evaluation model.

At each Governing Board meeting, ICHCAP reports on how its projects align with UNESCO's strategies, particularly C/4 and C/5, as well as the priorities of the KHS. These reports ensure that ICHCAP remains accountable to its primary stakeholders by demonstrating alignment with broader cultural and heritage safeguarding goals. The Centre is also working to enhance its evaluation processes by developing a quality indicator to measure the effectiveness of its projects more rigorously.

One area where ICHCAP has acknowledged room for improvement is impact analysis. While impact measurement has not been fully integrated into its processes, the Office of Planning and Management is currently working on the development of new indicators. These indicators will focus on evaluating ICHCAP's contribution to enhancing the visibility of partners and building information capacity related to ICH at both national and international levels.

Although ICHCAP does not have a quantified scale for measuring impact, it has conducted several surveys to assess participant satisfaction in its workshops. These surveys have provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the Centre's activities, but ICHCAP recognises the need for more systematic data collection and analysis to understand the broader impact of its work. As the Centre continues to refine its accountability mechanisms, the integration of more comprehensive evaluation tools will help it better assess its contributions to ICH safeguarding.

2.8. Funding

ICHCAP's financial trends since the renewal Agreement reflect a large growth followed by a stabilisation in its overall funding and expenditures. The Centre's budget is composed of a regular budget, divided between programme and personnel costs, and an extra budget that accounts for additional funding sources. Each Governing Board meeting reviews the budget of the year and approves the one for the next year, providing transparent and detailed financial reporting. Respondents from UNESCO reported that the Centre has the biggest budget among C2Cs.

The financial reports come with an execution rate of 99 to 100% over the years, showing efficient use of allocated funds and strong financial discipline to meet programmatic goals. Throughout the years, a substantial portion of the budget has been dedicated to developing and maintaining the ichLinks platform, which serves as a digital repository and knowledge-sharing platform for ICH, explaining the significant growth in programme costs in 2020 and 2021. This reflects ICHCAP's strategic emphasis on digital engagement and making ICH content accessible to a global audience. Each year, a portion of the budget is allocated to strengthening regional networks and partnerships through forums, workshops,

and support to capacity-building initiatives. This aligns with ICHCAP's goal of fostering collaboration among Asia-Pacific countries. Significant funds are dedicated to supporting ICH-related educational projects, including the creation of MOOCs and teacher training programmes, which aligns with UNESCO's focus on integrating cultural heritage into education. Personnel and operating costs have remained consistent over the five-year period, showing that ICHCAP has maintained consistent staffing and operational efficiency. The regular budget has been quite consistent over the year, peaking at 3,255 million KRW in 2021 (20% increase from 2019) and decreasing by almost 14% in 2023. Data collected revealed that this decrease has been concerning as there is a perception that national funds should prioritise national ICH in a context where public funds are gradually reduced. Moreover, the regular budget is confirmed on a yearly basis (every December) which creates uncertainty, heavy reliance on extra funding and affects the ability to plan on the long-term.

The extra budget has seen the most significant fluctuations as it almost tripled between 2019 and 2023, suggesting that ICHCAP has been successful in attracting additional funding, particularly in 2021 and 2023. This extra funding has been secured on a project-base and is coordinated by the Strategic Development and Cooperation and Networking Offices and have resulted in partnerships with NIHC (ICH World Forum), Jeonju City (for the World Children's Festival for ICH) and Dangjin City (for a tug-of-war festival), allowing ICHCAP to implement specific initiatives. Interviews with ICHCAP staff suggest that more flexible funding options could allow for greater innovation and responsiveness in project implementation.

Given the reliance on core funders, ICHCAP could explore alternative approaches to diversifying its funding base within the bounds of it legal and operational framework. The Centre could focus on creating partnerships with private sector partners or foundations that provide in-kind support or co-funding opportunities aligned with its mission without necessitating complex financial reporting for multiple donors. These partnerships could focus on strategic priorities such as enhancing digital participation and improving platforms like ichLinks, ensuring both their sustainability and a user-centric experience. This approach could help ICHCAP strengthen its capacity to address current financial gaps while maintaining operational efficiency.

2.9. Autonomy

ICHCAP operates with a high degree of autonomy in its day-to-day activities and strategic planning, particularly in relation to UNESCO. The Centre is established under an agreement between the RoK and

UNESCO, and its legal framework is based on Article 47 of the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Heritage Act in Korea, which grants it legal autonomy. Internationally, ICHCAP functions as a C2C, and it is largely independent when it comes to implementing projects and deciding on its workplan. From UNESCO's perspective, ICHCAP does not need to seek approval for most decisions, and there are minimal requirements to revise their workplan, allowing for significant operational freedom. However, there are perceptions of caution and prudence in ICHCAP's decision-making processes, particularly in its relationship with the KHS and the government of Korea. While ICHCAP is technically autonomous, some external stakeholders have observed that the Centre appears to seek additional approval or guidance before making decisions, especially on sensitive issues. This could be attributed to the pressure the Centre feels from both UNESCO and RoK, with ICHCAP balancing its responsibilities to both parties.

Overall, ICHCAP's autonomy is supported by a clear legal framework, which allows it to operate independently both internationally and nationally. While there may be occasional perceptions of prudence in decision-making due to the pressures from key stakeholders, ICHCAP's governance structure ensures that it can fulfil its mission effectively. Stakeholders, particularly from UNESCO, have expressed confidence in the Director General's leadership and in ICHCAP's ability to maintain its autonomy while ensuring strong relationships with its key partners.

3. Recommendations

3.1. For ICHCAP

- **Enhance Community Engagement**: To address the challenges of reaching underrepresented and remote communities, ICHCAP should explore more hybrid dissemination methods. Combining digital platforms with traditional outreach formats, such as in-person workshops or community visits, could help overcome issues related to limited internet access in areas like the Pacific and Central Asia. Additionally, ICHCAP should explore ways to sustain deeper, long-term community engagement beyond project phases, possibly through ongoing local partnerships or community liaisons.

- **Enhance Digital Engagement and Interaction**: ICHCAP's ichLinks platform is an important tool for ICH safeguarding, but its potential could be further expanded by introducing interactive features such as forums or discussion boards. These would allow ICH practitioners, scholars, and community members to share knowledge, engage in discussions, and exchange

experiences dynamically. This would also improve user engagement and foster a more collaborative approach to ICH safeguarding.

- **Strengthen Network Support**: ICHCAP has been successful in establishing regional networks, but there is an opportunity to enhance their impact by granting more autonomy to network members. While the Centre's approach (providing funding and close management) has been crucial in the network development phase, shifting towards a more facilitative role could empower local institutions to take the lead in organising and implementing projects that address their specific ICH challenges. This shift towards more localised control could increase the effectiveness of programmes by tailoring them more precisely to local needs and contexts, while also building the capacity of regional partners to lead ICH safeguarding efforts independently.

- **Develop Long-Term Funding Strategies**: Given the reliance on core funders and the fluctuations in extra-budgetary funding, ICHCAP would benefit from a targeted fundraising strategy. Additionally, securing more flexible funding options would enable ICHCAP to be more responsive to evolving needs in ICH safeguarding and expand support for emerging priorities like digital engagement. To implement this, ICHCAP could consider hiring a dedicated staff member responsible for securing extra-funding, focusing on identifying and applying for grants, building relationships with donors, and ensuring the sustainability of projects beyond current funding cycles.

- **Integrate More Comprehensive Impact Evaluation**: As ICHCAP develops its new impact indicators, it should strive to integrate these into a broader evaluation framework. Introducing a framework for impact measurement and more robust data collection methods will help the Centre better assess the effectiveness of its activities and report on its contributions to the safeguarding of ICH more clearly.

3.2. For the Government of the Republic of Korea

- **Increase Support for Long-Term Sustainability**: As public funding for ICHCAP's activities may face reductions, it is critical that the Government of Korea continues to provide support for the Centre, particularly to maintain its operational capacity and strategic goals. The Government should explore mechanisms to stabilise ICHCAP's regular budget, ensuring that the Centre can continue to operate efficiently without overly relying on project-based funding.

4. Annexes

4.1. Bibliography

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and UNESCO regarding the Establishment in the Republic of Korea of an International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), 2010.
- Agreement on Renewal, 2019.
- Constitution of ICHCAP.
- Governing Board Meetings from 2019 to 2023.
- ICHCAP Annual Activity Report 2020, 2022 and 2023.

4.2. Methodology

As outlined in the inception report, this evaluation has been conducted in three phases.

4.2.1. A Rapid Inception Phase

This phase involved a preliminary desk review and discussions with ICHCAP and LHE to help us tailor our Renewal Evaluation Index to ICHCAP's needs as well as identify key stakeholders to interview and organise fieldwork for data collection.

4.2.2. Data Collection Phase

After validation of the Inception Report and the Evaluation Index, we started the data collection phase which was divided in three parts.

- **ICHCAP visit:** Fieldwork was conducted between 24 and 28 September 2024 in Seoul, Jeonju, Sejong and Daejeon. The exact itinerary can be found in Annex 4.4. This week allowed to interview ICHCAP staff, through group discussions and individual interviews, as well as project partners, governing board, advisory board and executive committee members. In total Aleph interviewed 30 persons, through 4 FGDs and 14 KIIs.
- **Remote interviews:** Aleph conducted 10 online KIIs with key stakeholders from UNESCO and partner organisations.
- **Online Survey:** Aleph deployed a rapid survey among partner institutions from Members States for 2 weeks and got 27 responses. The results of the survey are displayed in Annex 4.5.
- **Desk Review:** Aleph reviewed key documents outlined in the Bibliography as well as online resources available on relevant websites.

4.2.3. Analysis and Reporting Phase

Aleph used all the data (primary and secondary) collected to populate the Evaluation Index and prepare this Draft Evaluation Report. Primary data was analysed thematically and triangulated with secondary data.

4.3. List of Interviewees

#	Name	Role	Organisation	Type
1	Jisung Kim	Director General	ICHCAP	KII
2	Gyuri Park	Director - Office of Planning and Management	ICHCAP	FGD 1
3	Jinyoung Seo	Programme Specialist - Office of Planning and Management	ICHCAP	FGD 1
4	Min Yung Jung	Programme Specialist - Office of Planning and Management	ICHCAP	FGD 1
5	Jung Seon Lim	Section Chief – Ethics Management Team	ICHCAP	FGD 1
6	Jaewang Kim	Assistant Programme Specialist – Ethics Management Team	ICHCAP	FGD 1
7	Boyoung Cha	Director - Office of Cooperation and Networking	ICHCAP	FGD 2
8	Soyoung Min	Programme Specialist - Office of Cooperation and Networking	ICHCAP	FGD 2
9	Min Kyoung Yun	Programme Specialist - Office of Cooperation and Networking	ICHCAP	FGD 2
10	Yunsuk Jang	Programme Specialist - Office of Cooperation and Networking	ICHCAP	FGD 2
11	Weonmo Park	Director - Office of Information and Research	ICHCAP	FGD 3
12	Sangmook Park	Programme Specialist - Office of Information and Research	ICHCAP	FGD 3
13	Milee Choi	Section Chief – Digital Content Development Team	ICHCAP	FGD 3
14	Jinsol Seo	Assistant Programme Specialist – Digital Content Development Team	ICHCAP	FGD 3

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15	Deoksoon Kim	Director - Office of Strategic Development	ICHCAP	FGD 4
16	Min Jung Kim	Programme Specialist - Office of Strategic Development	ICHCAP	FGD 4
17	Minji Kim	Programme Specialist - Office of Strategic Development	ICHCAP	FGD 4
18	Fumiko Ohinata	Secretary of the 2003 Convention	UNESCO	KII
19	Tim Curtis	Director of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi	UNESCO	KII
20	Susanne Schnuttgen	Head of Unit, Capacity Building and Heritage Policy, Living Heritage Entity	UNESCO	KII
21	Nicholas Tan	Associate Programme Specialist, Living Heritage Entity	UNESCO	KII
22	Duong Bich Hanh	Chief, Culture Unit, UNESCO Beijing Office	UNESCO	KII
23	Himalchuli Gurung	Chief, Asia and the Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre	UNESCO	KII
24	Feng Jing	Chief, Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok Office	UNESCO	KII
25	Aigul Khalafova	National Professional Officer, UNESCO Almaty Office	UNESCO	KII
26	Jorijn Neynrinck	Facilitator		KII
27	Neel Kamal Chapagain	Facilitator		KII
28	Young Ah Im	Director General – Heritage Promotion Bureau	KHS	KII
29	Inheon Song	Director – World Heritage Division	KHS	KII
30	Seung-bum Lim	Senior researcher – World Heritage Division	KHS	KII
31	Bihn Seo	Director General – Public Diplomacy and Cultural Affairs Bureau	MOFA	KII
32	Si Yeon Rim	Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO agenda & Policy Centre – Korean National Commission	UNESCO	KII
33	Pan Yong Park	Director General	NIHC	KII
34	Young-chang Choi	President	Korea Heritage Agency	KII

35	Jingi Cheon	Chairperson	ICHC	KII
36	Jungsook Jung	Director	Culture, Plan & Evaluation Research Institute	KII
37	Chi Dae Park	Producer – Department of Content Business Planning	EBS	KII
38	Daeyoung Ko	Curator	Dangjin City	KII
39	Haeree Shim	Head – Education and Networking Office	WHIPIC	KII
40	Geumhee Park	Director – Cultural Policy Division	Jeonju City	KII

4.4. Schedule of the Field Visit

ICHCAP Renewal Evaluation Visiting Schedule

Date	Subject	Time	Schedule	Details
9.24. (Tue.)	Move	09:45-11:38	Seoul Station→Jeonju Station (KTX)	Ms. Chiara Fall
		11:45-12:00	Jeonju Station→Hotel	Ms. Jinyoung Seo
		12:00-12:10	Hotel Bag Drop	
	Lunch	12:10-13:30	Lunch	
	Pre-meeting	13:30-14:00	Brief Schedule Sharing	+Ms. Gyuri Bak, Director
	Interview	14:00-17:00	Interview_ICHCAP	-Mr. Jisung Kim, Director-General - Group 1 (Planning & Management) / 5 ppl - Group 2 (Strategic Development) / 3 ppl
	Office Tour	17:00-17:30	ICHCAP/NIHC Tour	
Date	Subject	Time	Schedule	Details
9.25. (Wed.)	Move	09:20-09:30	Hotel→ICHCAP	Ms. Jinyoung Seo
	Interview	09:30-12:00	Interview_ICHCAP	- Group 2 (Information & Research) / 4 ppl - Group 3 (Cooperation & Networking) / 4 ppl
	Lunch	12:00-13:30	Lunch	
	Interview	13:30-14:00	Interview_Stakeholders	- Stakeholders (Advisory Board 1)
		14:00-14:30		- Stakeholders (Advisory Board 2)
		14:30-15:30		- Stakeholders (Project Partner/Government)
	Post-meeting	15:30-16:00	Review of 1st Day	Ms. Jinyoung Seo
	Day 1 End	16:00	ICHCAP→Hotel	
Date	Subject	Time	Schedule	Details
9.26. (Thr.)	Check-Out / Move	09:20-09:30	Hotel→ICHCAP	Ms. Jinyoung Seo
	Interview	09:30-10:00	Interview_NIHC	Stakeholders (Executive Committee)
	Move	10:00-11:30	ICHCAP→WHIPIC (Sejong)	
	Interview	11:30-12:00	Interview_WHIPIC	Stakeholders (C2Cs in Korea)
	Lunch	12:00-13:00	Lunch	
	Move	13:00-13:40	WHIPIC (Sejong)→KHS (Daejeon)	
	Interview	14:00-15:00	Interview_KHS	
		15:00-15:30	Interview_Stakeholders	Stakeholders (Community / Project Partner)
		15:30-16:00		Stakeholders (Executive Committee)
	Move	17:31-18:45	KHS (Daejeon)→Seoul	KTX
	Day 2 End	19:00	Check-in	
Date	Subject	Time	Schedule	Details
9.27. (Fri.)	Move	10:00-10:30	Hotel→NatCom	
	Interview	10:30-11:30	Interview_Governing Board	Stakeholders (Governing Board)
	Lunch	11:30-13:00	Lunch	
	Move	13:00-13:40	NatCom→KH	
	Interview	14:00-15:00	Interview_Stakeholders	- Stakeholders (Executive Committee) - Stakeholders (Community / Project Partner)
	Move	15:00-15:40	KH→MOFA	
	Interview	16:00-17:00	Interview_Governing Board	Stakeholders (Governing Board)
	Day 3 End			

4.5. Results of the Online Survey

26 respondents have answered the online survey, from the following institutions and countries. The survey was also sent to CRIHAP, the China C2C but given the restrictions on Google, it was then sent in

a word format with additional questions. The centre responded and the information was used along with the KIIs.

|	
Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies	Vietnam
Dhaka University	Bangladesh
International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement under the auspices of UNESCO (ICM)	Republic of Korea
Tiapapata Art Centre Inc.	Samoa
International Institute for Central Asian Studies	Uzbekistan
대한민국 국가유산청 (Korea Heritage Service)	Republic of Korea
National Library & Archives of Bhutan	Bhutan
Halu Oleo University	Indonesia
Elementary school	Republic of Korea
Research Institute of Culture and Information	Tajikistan
ministry of cultural affairs	Bangladesh
Kazakhstan National ICH Committee	Kazakhstan
University of the Philippines Visayas	Philippines
MINISTRY OF TOURISM (CULTURE & HERITAGE DIVISION)	Tonga
Government of Tuvalu	Tuvalu
The University of Hong Kong	China
Mongolian national university of Arts and Culture	Mongolia
Category 2 centre - Sofia, Bulgaria	Other
Agency for Cultural Affairs	Japan
IRCI	Japan
Contact Base	India
Sri Lanka National Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Sri Lanka
Tribhuvan University, (CDNeHCA)	Nepal
Malaysia Arts And Cultural Practitioners Association	Malaysia
International Centre for Documentary Heritage Under the auspices of UNESCO	Republic of Korea
National Foundation For Development Of Indigenous Nationalities	Nepal

How long has your institution been involved in ICHCAP activities?

26 responses

- Less than 1 year
- 1-3 years
- More than 3 years

88.5%
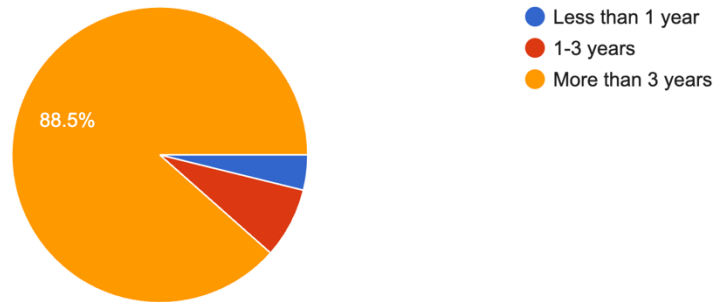
How would you rate the timeliness of communication from ICHCAP regarding its activities and initiatives?

26 responses
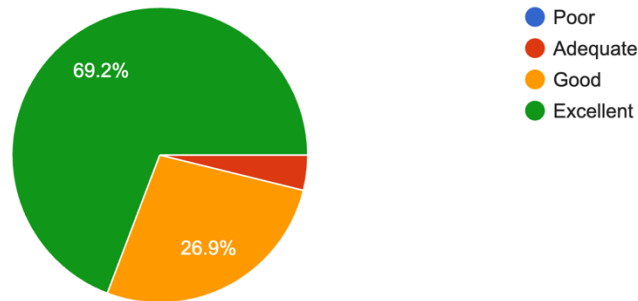

- Not timely
- Sometimes timely
- Always timely

84.6%

11.5%
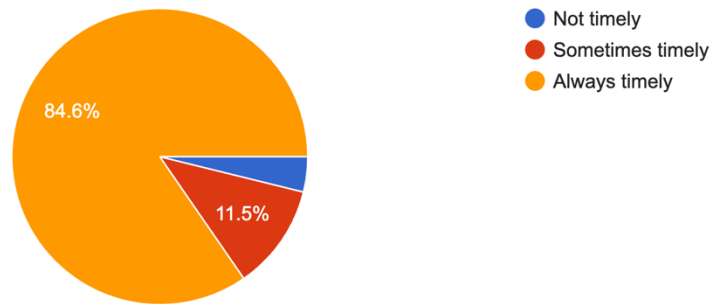
How would you assess the quality of information provided by ICHCAP (e.g. relevance, accuracy and usefulness)?

26 responses

To what extent have ICHCAP's activities contributed to promote the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and... to its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region?

26 responses
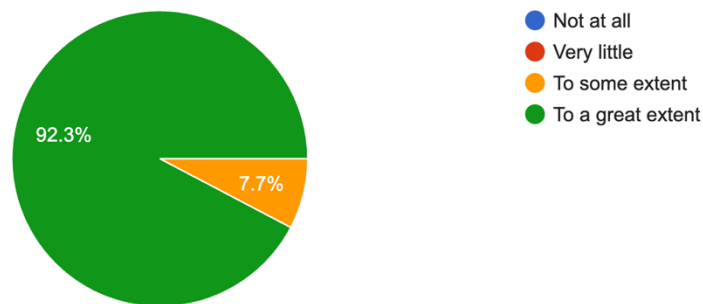
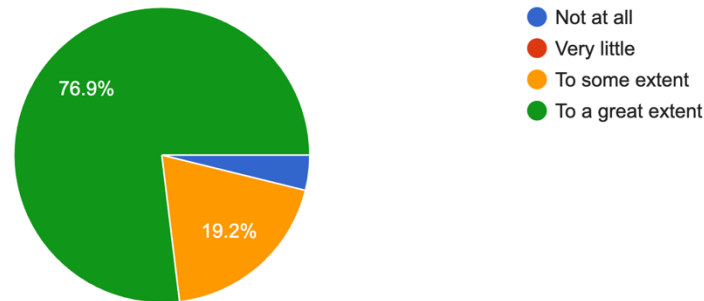Please provide an example, if available (17 responses)

- Within the framework of activities to protect intangible cultural heritage under the 2003 UNESCO convention, ICHCAP has continuously innovated and been creative in proposing fundamental technology solutions and changes in the way of linking, supporting member countries to participate in collecting documents, creating heritage lists, organizing technology training conferences for human resources of information officers from other countries, adding additional features Flexibility on the system helps with work. Among them is the ICHLINK platform, which helps countries connect and share existing data platforms. This is also an opportunity to help spread and disseminate information about cultural heritage of countries around the world.

- Networking with heritage researchers, heritage practitioners, promoting heritage education and making documentation on heritage elements

- Traditional architecture - Workshop on Revitalization of Indigenous Architecture and Traditional Building Skills, held in Samoa and published in 2015.

- Silk Roads Living Heritage Network (for the time being covered 9 State Parties and several international institutions), which was established with support of ICHCAP in 2021, is practical implementation of the 2003 Convention.
- ICH safeguarding funding, programmes and dissemination plans.
- School cooperated living heritage education
- Regular publishing journal ICH Courier.
- ICHCAP's organizing workshop for capacity building of the focal points of contact from the Asia and the Pacific has directly benefited me by enabling me to steer and guide the periodic reporting national committee. As a result Bangladesh has timely submitted report to the convention 2003 this year.
- ICHLINKS Project ensures the visibility of the countries' efforts at the local level. ICHCAP regular forums and workshops facilitate information sharing on the Convention implementation at the national level
- It supported the formation of the Asia Pacific Higher Education Network for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage or APHEN-ICH in 2018. It participated in my university's international conferences on ICH in 2017 and 2018.
- ICH Awareness Raising in Secondary Schools in Tonga project using the videos.
- Events co-organised with UNESCO, MOOC, etc.
- ICHCAP regularly organises regional and sub regional knowledge forums and networking meetings connecting government, academics, NGOs and these platforms have contributed hugely towards building awareness on the UNESCO 2003 Convention and its operational directives, implementation framework and good practices. I have attended and also co-organised some of the South Asia forums.
- The project to produce ten videos of ten ICH elements of Sri Lanka funded by ICHCAP. and (2) the week-long training program for Country Focal Points for Periodic Reporting in the Asia-Pacific region were organized by ICHCAP superbly.
- ICHCAP as far as I know has played pivotal role in promoting 2003 UNESCO Convention and its objectives through strategies as mentioned in the 2003 Convention article 18 (programmes, projects and activities…), article 13 (d) (i) and other articles of inventories, participation of communities, groups or individuals etc, supporting RoK's role (as a member state of the convention). Helped in international cooperation and assistance for capacity building with other C2C and networking.
- With its timely periodic ICH Courier publications, constant programmes and conferences in the region.

To what extent have ICHCAP's activities contributed to increase the participation of communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding ICH, and rai...areness and ensure respect for ICH in the region.

26 responses

- Not at all
- Very little
- To some extent
- To a great extent

76.9%

19.2%

Please provide examples, if available (16 responses)

- ICHCAP's activities have contributed at a high level to strengthening the participation of communities, groups and individuals in the work of protecting ICH, while raising awareness and ensuring respect for ICH in the region. aspect area. Since then, the governments of countries in the region have paid attention, connected, and cooperated to launch advanced projects and programs on data collection and systematization, as well as aiming at digitization and dissemination, communication about available data sources, as well as exchange, interruptions between countries.
- Created a pool of resources: heritage scholars, heritage publications and heritage video documents
- The Workshop on Revitalization of Indigenous Architecture and Traditional Building Skills, held in Samoa involved local community builders.
- During 2020-2023 ICHCAP provided support for several surveys on ICH festivals and traditional craft workshops in Member States located along the Silk Roads. There were 347 respondents on survey for ICH festivals (organized by multiple public bodies -33.7%, single public body - 25.1%, public-private partnership - 21.3%, single non-profit body - 16.7% and a single for-profit body - 3%) and 657 respondents on survey for traditional crafts (90,3% of respondent's work related with crafts, 65,6% of respondents are artisans, 14,6% - scholars from academic institutions and universities, 11,6% - representatives from public/private organizations in the field of applied arts and 8,1% from crafts associations).
- Probably due to the funding shortage and communities not understanding the English (medium of instruction)
- Exhibitions such like 교과서 속 무형유산(Intangible Cultural Heritage in School Textbook), or world children living heritage festival.
- ICHCAP has collaboration mostly with focal points and experts of the field.
- ICHCAP facilitated participation of a dance troupe from Bangladesh to present the community based performing art in 2023 and the participants of the group learned to know and better appreciate their culture and its intangible elements such as music ang dance.

- Open Archive project aims to reproduce the good practice of the ICH bearers and communities in ICH safeguarding
- In their publications ICH Courier, ICHCAP publishes its many involvement and support for ICH safeguarding and awareness efforts.
- ICH Awareness Raising in Secondary Schools in Tonga project using the videos
- ICH links
- ICH links
- ICHCAP organises a variety of awareness programs engaging tradition bearers and practitioners and youth. I have written 'to some extent' as ICHCAP may support more such programs and events in South Asia. The video documentation project where we have partnered is an excellent example of active engagement of communities, groups and individuals in raising awareness on their ICH.
- With its various programs like ICHCAP ICH google online exhibition, ICH video production project in various regions.

To what extent have ICHCAP's activities contributed to enhance the capacity for safeguarding ICH in the region through coordination and dissemination of information.

26 responses

Legend:
- Not at all
- Very little
- To some extent
- To a great extent

69.2%
26.9%
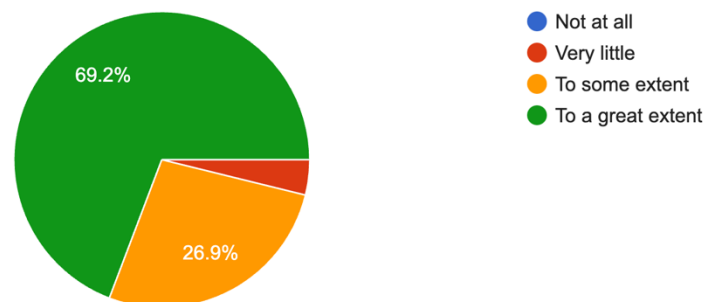
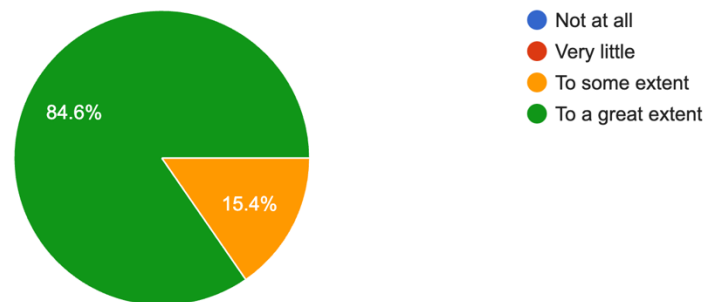Please provide examples, if available (14 responses)

- Increase the number of members admitted according to registration needs. ICHCAP has strict and extensive operating regulations, with specific criteria and requirements for the quality of information and data products of the countries provided. Timely organize training courses and conferences to improve the capacity of information officers from other countries.
- Organising seminars, workshop and meetings
- ICH+ Plus online - plus the printed publication sent by mail.
- Publication of relevant articles in the ICH Courier, holding of the sub-regional information (good practices in ICH safeguarding) sharing meetings, establishment of regional networks (for example, Silk Roads Living Heritage Network).
- Inventory, Community involvement and Nominations
- ICHCAP encouraged and created regional sub-groups to better interact and coordinate between the member states in the issues of different ICH safeguarding activities and challenges.

- Global Forum on 30-years anniversary of the Convention became the platform for great exchange of activities, practices and ideas
- Since APHEN-ICH's founding ICHCAP provided support to the ICH field schools of the network when in person or during the COVID pandemic, online.
- ich courier
- ICHCAP has been exemplary in building knowledge and dissemination of information providing ideas and new insights to stakeholders in safeguarding ICH. ICH Courier, ICH videos, the journals are excellent examples of strengthening access to information. ICHCAP supports the publication of Heritage Alive Journal every two years. This is an excellent initiative in sharing NGO experience in safeguarding (collaboration with ICH NGO Forum of accredited NGOs).
- ICHCAP has provided training to several Sri Lankans in different aspects of ICH safeguarding including inventorying.
- It has created the greater awareness for safeguarding of ICH specially in Nepal as it has not yet established its ICH inventory portfolio.

To what extent have ICHCAP's activities contributed to foster regional and international cooperation for the safeguarding of ICH.

26 responses

Legend:
- Not at all
- Very little
- To some extent
- To a great extent

84.6%
15.4%

Please provide examples, if available (15 responses)

- ICHCAP activities have contributed to a high degree to promote sound regional and international action to protect ICH. With the platform data collection is continuously encouraged, providing participating member countries, providing, technical improvements and better quality data.
- Developing and fostering different ICH related forums
- Regional workshops such as the one on indigenous architecture and building skills.
- Silk Roads Living Heritage Network consist of Member States from Asia-Pacific and Europe Regions, international (IICAS - International Institute for Central Asian Studies) and regional (Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of ICH in South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of UNESCO) organizations
- ICH Forum and ichLinks programmes
- Supporting APHEN-ICH
- They invited local 기접놀이 (Gijeop Nori) group to the festival.

36

- Regularly organizing forums and workshops.
- ICHCAP in its activities involved trainers and facilitators from the UNESCO. Thus participants could have a better understanding and communication between the regional and international experts on ICH safe guarding. It is really a bridging between the region and the centre of excellence on ICH.
- The activities of the Local Festivals on the Great Silk Road promote the coordination and information sharing between Central Asian countries
- In 2019, it supported an orientation on the 2003 Convention in Shanghai with CRIHAP.
- sub-regional meetings for networking
- ICHCAP supports regional and international cooperation through regular organisation of networking meets and its publications. In the formative years of ICH NGO Forum, ICHCAP played a pioneering role in bringing together NGOs from across the world in a symposium at its office. These networking meets support partnership building in an organic way. The Heritage Alive publication has been a powerful mechanism bringing together diverse NGOs and their experiences. The programs in South Asia have also helped in developing a network.
- The above-mentioned video production project and the training project on Periodic Reporting to country Focal Point from the Asia-Pacific region.
- The couple of regional conference & meeting of ICH being held in Nepal has contributed to foster national & international cooperation in the region.

How effective has ICHCAP been in supporting your institution's efforts to align with the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage?
26 responses
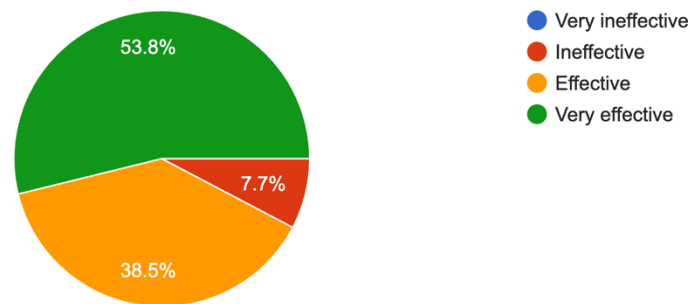
What specific ICHCAP activities or programmes have been most beneficial to your institution and why? (21 responses)

- The specific ICHCAP activities or programs that have most benefited our VICAS organization from 2019 to present include: Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) has cooperated and participated in the International Network and Information Center on Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ichLinks) under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) since 2019. Since 2020, VICAS has gradually participated in building and developing an online platform to serve the purpose of sharing information, collecting data and using content on intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2020 - 2021, with the

cooperation project on Building a database and digital content on Vietnam's intangible cultural heritage, Vicas implemented the construction of a data system including cultural heritages recognized by UNESCO as representative intangible cultural heritages of humanity, with the National Institute of Culture and Arts as the unit that built the dossiers (including 7 heritage dossiers). Digitizing Betacam magnetic tapes (Cleaning magnetic tapes to convert data from analog to digital files): 113 Betacam 30 tapes and 02 B60 tapes. Building a system of films, documentary photos and in-depth research articles on intangible cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO as representative of humanity, including 7 films (from 10 to 20 minutes), 140 documentary photos and 7 research articles (including 5,000 words each). Vicas has collaborated with the community and heritage practitioners to organize traditional festivals/rituals/arts and has built 5 scientific films (from 10 to 20 minutes), 100 documentary photos and 5 research articles (including 5,000 words each). The goal is to build a new data system on typical traditional festivals/rituals/arts of Vietnam to share information with the international network on intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. In May 2021, Vicas successfully organized the launching ceremony of the ichLinks platform in Vietnam. Vicas has checked, supplemented and corrected 50 data on intangible cultural heritage of Vietnamese ethnic groups provided by ICHCAP. In 2023 - 2024, with the cooperation project Promoting Vietnam's intangible cultural heritage through research and creation of ICH content (2023 - 2024), Vicas built new data on the intangible cultural heritage of Traditional Cheo Art of Ninh Binh province and has built 01 film (23 minutes), 50 documentary photos and 01 research article (including 5,000 words). Vicas is implementing and completing the review, supplementation and correction of data on intangible cultural heritage of Vietnamese ethnic groups provided by ICHCAP (221 heritages). In 2025, Vicas will have a certain amount of funding to cover the activities of Building new data on intangible cultural heritage to create a source of documents for ichlink in Vietnam, but on the condition that ichlinks must still have funding for the work of 2025 and the following years.

- ICH Field schools, ICH Education research, publication and conferences in the Asia Pacific Region
- Exposure through published works as an ICH Correspondent.
- Establishment of the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network in 2021.
- Inventorying ICH, Research and documentation and Online access activities because Bhutan has been an active member who commits and contributes project outcomes in time and in very effective manner knowing the importance of ICH.
- ICHCAP is the main supporter for APHEN-ICH, where my university is part of it, to promote safeguarding of ICH in academic activities, such as teaching and research.
- Teachers' training. Because very few number of teachers know how to teach living heritage so far. And this fact requires more teachers need to be trained if they want.
- Publishing a book on ICH in Tajikistan, capacity building.
- ICHCAP's organizing workshop for capacity building of the focal points of contact from the Asia and the Pacific has directly benefited me by enabling me to steer and guide the periodic reporting national committee. As a result Bangladesh has timely submitted report to the convention 2003 this year.
- ICHLINKS Project; Local Festivals on the Great Silk Road; Regional Documentary Festival

- The field schools that it supported which allowed my university's representatives (students and researchers) to join.
- Capacity Building
- APHEN-ICH (AGM, Conference, Capacity Building workshop, etc)
- During the c2c meetings, the share of information about different initiatives from ICHCAP that could be applied in South-East European context
- APHENICH was effective for disseminating our programme information and for identifying mentors for our programme for young researchers
- Participation in ICHCAP's symposiums have helped our capacity building. Two of our staff have attended training programs and fellowships at ICHCAP on safeguarding ICH. We have partnered with ICHCAP to develop a publication and organise networking meets (in person as well as online) on South Asia NGOs safeguarding ICH for safeguarding heritage and developing creative economy. These projects have helped our organisation's employees to gain experience on ICH safeguarding in South Asia and forge partnerships. The current partnership where we are documenting 8 ICH elements of eastern India has given us a great opportunity to engage with communities to convey their stories of safeguarding.
- ICH Field Survey project conducted in 2011-12 and the publication of the same report for wider dissemination.
- I have known ICHCAP since 2017 since its sub regional network meeting in Nepal. I am a teaching faculty member of Central Department of Nepalese History., Culture and Archaeology at Tribhuvan University, In 2018 when it first took initiative to know about university and ICH in the Asia Pacific region, I was a part of its survey; eventually invited to Republic of Korea along with other university related representatives in the Asia Pacific and the first tertiary meeting of the invited representatives of about 15 + institutions through the initiative of UNESCO Bangkok and ICHCAP formed Asia Pacific Higher Education Network (APHEN-ICH). There are 23 member institutions (universities) from the region in the APHEN-ICH as of now with simple to moderate to specifically ICH focused universities group in the network. We collaborate , exchange students through field classes on ICH hold general meetings and are planning for a joint research and if possible some courses that may be commonly aligned for many or all members.
- 2003 CONVENTION MENTIONS OF accreditation OF ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS (THROUGH THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE) OF NGO's WITH RECOGNIZED COMPETENCE IN ICH FIELD. ICHCAP has also leveraged APEHN-ICH to apply for the accreditation of advisory NGO to the UNESCO 20003 convention Committee.
- Recently a Youth session on special lecture for university students' along with APEHN-ICH conference on ICH and General Meeting was held in Kathmandu through the initiative of ICHCAP. This has benefited our students, learners, teachers and enhanced our international networking.
- Communities programme, promotion, events, capacity building, information related to the convention 2003.
- ICHCAP is the longest-standing and most experienced Category 2 (C2) Centre in Korea within the cultural sector. Beyond the sector, C2 centers in Korea, such as the Water Security Centre, the Heritage Interpretation Centre, and the Documentary Heritage Centre, also received substantial consulting support from ICHCAP at the time of their establishment. ICHCAP played

a pivotal role in helping these centers set up their statutes and operational regulations, and many of these centers continue to model their operations on ICHCAP.

- ICHCAP has actively contributed to raising awareness and building capacity through regular network meetings with UNESCO, Member States, and various NGOs and other stakeholders. In fact, ICHCAP's activities are arguably recognized internationally, highlighting the demand for partnerships and collaboration with ICHCAP to meet the needs of various projects.
- ICHCAP activities to support projects to safeguard culture thru online exhibition, video documentary & documentation helped our institute to preserve, protect & promote indigenous culture as well as nation's distinct culture.

How would you rate ICHCAP's contribution to specific SDG indicators relevant to intangible cultural heritage in your country?

26 responses

- No contribution
- A small contribution
- Good contribution
- Significant contribution
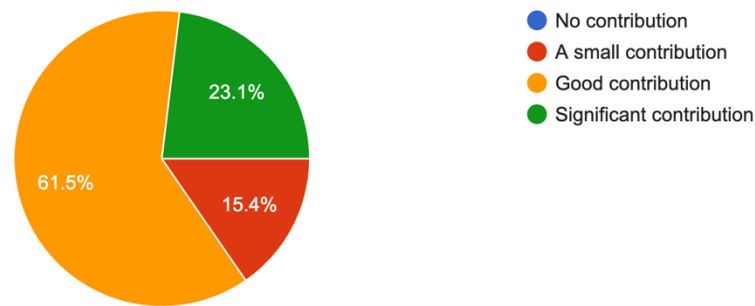
In what ways have ICHCAP activities helped you institution contribute to relevant SDGs? Please provide specific examples, if available. (17 responses)

- ICHCAP activities have helped our organization VICAS contribute to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following ways: 1/ Collecting and researching ICH information and data of ethnic groups in our country that are representative, typical or ICH at risk of disappearing to contribute to consulting on the development of a Master Dossier to submit to National Levels, or UNESCO to register on the ICH List of the country, or of humanity; 2/ Strengthening the solid position of the community - the subject holding ICH towards other communities in the region and territory, under the auspices of the Vietnamese government and government agencies. 3/ Strengthening the role of VICAS information officers to gain more experience, knowledge and skills in collecting, protecting ICH, as well as skills in building existing data on the Asia-Pacific region's platform system. For example: In 2023, we participated in collecting documents on the Traditional Cheo Art Heritage of Ninh Binh province, feeling the excitement, enthusiasm, and pride of the community that holds the heritage, the previous generations who pass on the heritage to the next generation. Thanks to the coordination of performances and help of the people, we have completed the task, contributing to providing full data on images, videos, articles, maps, and community commitments, advising all levels to build a dossier of this heritage, submitting it to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism for national heritage recognition. This is the joy and hope not only of the community and the

government of Ninh Binh province, but also an encouragement for us, the cultural and information officers, to continue to strive for such useful work. That joy helps motivate and cover up the sweat and hard work of the information officers. We appreciate and are proud of that. Thanks to ICHCAP and the projects and cooperation programs, which have created more opportunities for us to experience reality and have initial results. Our Vietnamese that are always united and determined to protect and promote ICH according to the 2003 UNESCO Convention, and to comply with the Law on Cultural Heritage and the cultural laws of our country.There are many other interesting stories on each journey to collect ICH data of our information officers, I will continue to tell you when you come to our country Vietnam. I am very happy and proud of that. Sincerely thank you.

- APHEN-ICH forum activities, Youth and Sustainability session, ICH Courier special article on SDG
- A joint publication which covers ICH side of the subject contributing to health and wellbeing
- Information shared provides insights into how creative industries can play an important role in issues related to the SDGs.
- SDG 17 - Activate global partnership
- Specifically sustainable development and community well-being and quality education.
- Supporting research on safeguarding ICH related to some aspects of SDG's, such as good health and well-being, climate action, and marine and land ecosystem.

- Teacher's training(전북세계시민선도교사)
- Education on ICH safeguarding
- Because of the network (APHEN-ICH) that it supported, my university became more active in ICH safeguarding through our cultural mapping activities especially those ICH that have direct contributions to SDGs like artisanal fishing, farming etc.
- Creating a resourceful platform for knowledge exchange and actions
- I'm not representing my country, but ICHCAP's contribution in my country seems to be small. This is largely because the government agency in charge of ICH is not much interested in SDGs. In general, ICHCAP has been doing a significant contribution to SDGs.
- As ICHCAP projects in India have been primarily focusing on knowledge and information exchange and network building within India and also other South Asian countries, it has contributed SDG 17 of forging global partnerships. However as India is a vast country, more focused zonal intervention and projects on awareness, youth engagement etc, will strengthen the contribution to SDG 11 (11.4) and also SDG 4 (target 4.7)
- As far as what I understand, in case of my institution, has specifically paid for international travels of APEHN-ICH member institutions during our 2024 international conference on ICH with the theme " ICH for Building Community Resilience: Contexts of Climate Change and Disasters. ICHCAP as I understand and perceive is contributing to SDG 17 (partnership) by bringing multi-stakeholder partnerships especially universities that together may/can mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support for Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia Pacific Region.
- ICHCAP serves as a valuable advisory institution for other C2 centers in Korea, especially in the development and implementation of international projects. It provides strategic direction that facilitates indirect contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rather than

direct ones. Although C2Cs function as international organizations, they are also special corporations affiliated with the domestic government. Within these parameters, they strive to effectively fulfill an intermediary role between the government and recipient countries, particularly in securing and managing funding and technical support.

- Safeguarding culture with the role of gender equity, support on livelihood to eradicate poverty thru ICH traditional craftsmanship, ICH in the formal & non formal education to create cohesive society etc.

How effective has ICHCAP been in building and maintaining networks among ICH communities, groups, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders?
26 responses
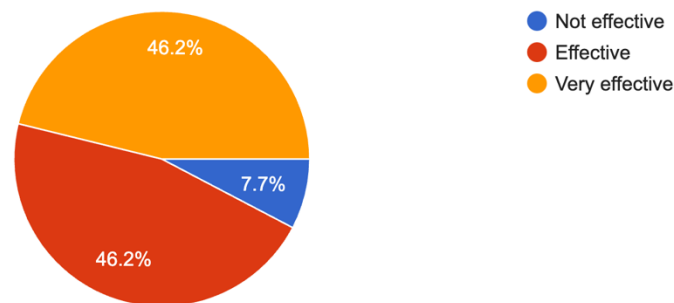
- APHEN-ICH
- About 76.1% of foreign NGOs operating in Vietnam play a financial support role; more than 58.2% play a technical support role and nearly 52.2% play a methodological support role. Along with financial support, technical and methodological support will ensure that projects of foreign NGOs are implemented with quality assurance. In addition, many foreign NGOs play the role of project implementers or co-implementers with local partners. Project implementation methods, management experience and knowledge and techniques in the project implementation process are important contributions of foreign NGOs to development in Vietnam.In 2018, the Asia-Pacific Intangible Cultural Heritage Conference took place in Hue city from November 6 to 8, 2018. The Hue Monuments Conservation Center (HMCC) in collaboration with the UNESCO-sponsored International Information and Networking Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP) held a press conference on the 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2018. Attending this conference were representatives of 35 organizations in the field of intangible cultural heritage protection from 16 countries in the region. Among them, there were members who were representatives of the NGO forum ICH (Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage). Participating organizations act as a bridge between countries and social communities involved in the protection of intangible cultural heritage with different objectives, such as local community development, poverty reduction, urban rehabilitation and community capacity building, based on their knowledge and experience contributing to sustainable development... The theme of the Conference is "NGOs protecting intangible cultural heritage for sustainable community development".

- ICH NGO Forum Activities
- ICHCAP invited diverse stakeholders to its international conferences
- International Conference on Safeguarding the Creative Values of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Central Asia: Focusing on Oral Traditions and Epics (2014), Survey on ICH Festivals along the Silk Roads (2020), Survey on Traditional Crafts along the Silk Roads (2021), Silk Roads Living Heritage Network (established in 2021), Studies on Mid-Long-Term Strategy of the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network (2022-2023), Sustainable Use of Silk Roads Traditional Crafts (2023), Symposium on Traditional Archery: Dialogue on Nomadic Traditional Cultural Heritage Cooperation (2024).
- ICH inventory of Bhutan, Research and documentation, and dissemination activities
- I personally participate a capacity building workshop in Jeonju in Korea this year. It helped me organize a dissemination session in which our institution invited the relevant stakeholders both from government and NGO and ICHCAP's reference was a catalyst to be responsive with our efforts to make all on board and informed about the intangible cultural heritages and their preservation and safeguarding.
- ICHLINKS Project
- APHEN-ICH, the higher education network that it helped form is now growing in its membership with plans to expand its activities beyond field schools to short-term training on ICH awareness and safeguarding.
- hosting of training workshop for periodic reporting, to which major country focal points were invited, and our office also joined as an observer
- Initiating ICH NGO Forum formation and Heritage Alive bi annual journal are two examples . Networking between Indian, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, Maldivian and Sri Lankan NGOs have also resulted in collaborations by the NGOs.
- ICHCAP Cultural Practitioner Initiative (CPI) program helped youths to develop their knowledge, skills & capacity to work with other community or groups in their country. The ICHCAP has been constantly supporting the NGOs with their forum & meetings for digitization of the ICH.

What improvements would you suggest for ICHCAP to enhance its support and engagement with your institution and other stakeholders? (21 responses)

- I would like to propose improvements for ICHCAP to increase the support and participation of VICAS and other stakeholders as follows: 1/ Continue to strengthen cooperation, sustainable development, and link together to share information, experience, and operational efficiency in the field of ICH in Vietnam and other countries in the region; 2/ VICAS needs to be proactive in connecting and sharing information between ICHCAP and other non-governmental organizations in the field of ICH in Vietnam. 3/ VICAS continues to consultant and propose to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam and the Government to mobilize and attract more resources for the culture and information sector, improve professional capacity for staff, encourage talent attraction, limit personnel changes in the organization, and try to regularly participate in ICHCAP activities.
- Need to provide financial supports to organise workshop on different ICH related issues in different countries and at different universities.

- ICHCAP's cooperation with my institution needs to be more centralised and coordinated. Currently, it is done by team by team approach.
- Provide timely information on funding opportunities to support ICH activities and possible attendance at regional meetings.
- Continue its support to the Silk Roads Living Heritage Network by extending number of participating Member States and ICH-specialized international/regional institutions.
- If there is plans and projects in documenting languages and dialects which is the main tool and vehicle for the transmission of ICH and are disappearing in an unimaginable mode. If extinct, there is no means to safeguard any other ICH domains.
- Supporting more to APHEN-ICH, especially in the possibility to recruit more members in APHEN-ICH.
- It would be very grateful if we have chance to meet living heritages face to face by program.
- I would like to recommend the ICHCAP more closely collaborate with relevant institutions from developing countries like Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and so on. ICHCAP more works for the his country Republic of Korea.
- While ICHCAP endorses any ICH project in Bangladesh, I suggest it to process through the government, more specifically ministry of cultural affairs so that the government might extent necessary supports to make it more effective.
- Listen to the countries teams and support multinational efforts
- None for the moment. Its engagement is quite ample.
- Provide more fund to increase number of activities implemented on safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Project implementation.
- to create an online tool for communication on a regular basis with all category 2 centres
- There is no need for improvement and it is desirable to maintain the status quo.
- There could be more opportunities for cooperation among C2Cs if the plan is effectively shared in advance. We occasionally receive requests for nominating researchers to participate in their activities, but often the timing is too late to find one. Securing more time for the planning of acvitivites would make the their programme more effective.
- A)Annual meets (may be hybrid or online in alternate years) of stakeholders at sub regional level for ensuring follow up and action on recommendations B)More projects at subregional level on engaging stakeholders, youths, communities, groups, individuals C)Availability of MOOC in local languages D)Projects engaging indigenous communities E)More thematic focus in knowledge exchange - this is done by ICHCAP, like one done on marine heritage - but creating opportunities for exchange among tradition bearers will help F)Exploring new tools like Podcast G)Supporting stakeholders in use of digital technology through knowledge building and projects
- Increasing opportunities for capacity building programs for ICH professionals from less-affluent countries.
- ICHCAP is doing better and I honestly appreciate its initiatives particularly as I look through my perception of our institution's relations and joint works. It would be better if it can collaborate with our institution to bring forth the and bind academicians with the communities and bring forth/ invite joint research programs and projects.

- I wish ICHCAP has already worked in this ICH field in different countries & region would share their cumulative knowledge, experience & provide training & workshops to develop the capacity of the institutions to strengthen in the safeguarding of their cultural heritage.