

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

**Deadline: 17 February 2025
for examination in 2025**

*File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

*Please provide only the information requested below.
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

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

Inter City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network

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

Inter City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network

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

90228

A.2. Address of the organization

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

Organization: *Inter City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network*

Address: *Kokkanissery, Payyanur (po), Kannur (Dist.), Kerala, India -
670307*

Telephone number:	+91 4985209699
Email address:	secretariat@iccnworld.org
Website/Social media:	https://iccnworld.org/
Other relevant information:	

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

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

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):	Ms
Family name:	Neenu
Given name:	Sukumaran
Position:	Correspondent
Postal address:	Payyanur(po), Kannur(Dist.), Kerala, India - 671311
Telephone number:	+91 9495725965
Email address:	secretariat@iccnworld.org
Other relevant information:	

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

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively contributes to strengthening institutional and human capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through advocacy, research, training, and sustainability initiatives. We engage with policymakers, government bodies, and international

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

organizations to address gaps in existing policies and schemes, ensuring better recognition and support for tradition bearers and indigenous communities. ICCN’s capacity-building efforts include training workshops and mentoring programs that equip artisans, folk artists, and tradition bearers with skills to adapt their craft to contemporary contexts while preserving authenticity. These initiatives also focus on intergenerational knowledge transfer, ensuring that younger generations remain connected to their cultural roots.

Additionally, we conduct research and documentation projects to record endangered traditions, oral histories, and indigenous practices, providing valuable resources for policymakers, scholars, and cultural practitioners. The consultancy services support local communities in developing sustainable livelihoods through heritage-based entrepreneurship, linking traditional knowledge with modern economic opportunities. By integrating ICH with sustainability initiatives, we promote eco-friendly practices such as organic dyeing, traditional architecture, and ethical craft production.

ICCN also collaborates with academic institutions and cultural networks to host seminars, performances, and interactive sessions that raise awareness about the significance of ICH. Through these efforts, we create a strong foundation for cultural continuity, resilience, and adaptability, ensuring that heritage remains a living, evolving part of society. The holistic approach empowers communities to take ownership of their cultural identity while contributing to global ICH preservation and sustainability discourse.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN is deeply engaged in the transmission and education of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through structured training, community engagement, and collaborative initiatives. The organization consists of well-educated artists and performers from diverse social sectors, fostering an inclusive environment where individuals can openly discuss challenges, share insights, and seek support for their artistic and cultural growth. This openness strengthens the connection with communities and tradition bearers, ensuring their voices are heard and valued.

ICCN has a structured enrollment process for ICH stakeholders, providing them with training and education to meet high-quality standards. Members are regularly informed about government and non-government projects, events, and opportunities to participate in national and international cultural platforms. Seeing the growth and recognition achieved by these artists, students, young adults, and even non-artists express keen interest in joining ICCN’s programs. To nurture their enthusiasm, we conduct specialized courses, workshops, and capacity-building sessions focusing on skill development and income generation, ensuring sustainable livelihoods through heritage-based crafts and performances.

Our approach emphasizes respect, equality, and continuous learning, creating a self-sustaining cycle of cultural preservation and innovation. We collaborate closely with communities, local groups, and individuals, ensuring their active participation in heritage conservation. By integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary education, ICCN empower individuals to become cultural ambassadors, strengthening the continuity of ICH across generations. Through the initiatives, ICCN fosters an environment where cultural heritage thrives while adapting to modern societal needs.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively engages in the inventorying and research of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) by documenting traditional practices, rituals, and performances through direct collaboration with communities and artists. ICCN process begins with the collection of living heritage elements, including instruments, costumes, manuscripts, and oral histories, to support existing theories and narrations. ICCN conducts workshops and Seminars on different aspects on Intangible Cultural Heritage. ICCN conducts extensive research to understand the social significance, historical trajectory, and evolving nature of these traditions.

A key challenge in this effort is that some artist communities are hesitant to share their knowledge due to lineage-based restrictions, belief systems, or the ritualistic nature of their practices. In such cases, ICCN takes a sensitive and respectful approach, ensuring that documentation aligns with community values. ICCN team engages in detailed ethnographic studies, preparing comprehensive notes on the art forms and their practitioners while preserving the integrity of their traditions.

ICCN inventory includes folklore related to agriculture, nature, fertility, rain, and other environmental elements, which are recorded and analyzed for their cultural significance. ICCN works closely with local communities, ensuring their active participation in the documentation process and encouraging knowledge transmission within their own cultural frameworks. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern research methodologies, ICCN not only safeguards heritage but also creates valuable resources for scholars, policymakers, and future generations. Its collaborative approach strengthens the connection between communities and institutions, ensuring that ICH remains a vibrant and evolving part of society.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN plays a crucial role in developing policies and legal frameworks for safeguarding Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) by actively engaging with authorities, local governments, communities, and other stakeholders. The organization comprises not only artists but also professionals from various sectors, including academicians, professors, advocates and politicians. Their diverse expertise and deep-rooted knowledge of cultural heritage enable them to voice concerns, provide valuable insights, and influence policy decisions.

Collaborations with government bodies, cultural institutions, and legal experts address critical issues such as performers' rights, remuneration, and community lineage conflicts. Advocacy efforts focus on better recognition, financial support, and sustainable opportunities for tradition bearers, ensuring their protection under relevant policies and legal frameworks. When unresolved issues arise, they are brought to the attention of policymakers, facilitating necessary administrative interventions.

Financial support is extended to artists in indigent circumstances, ensuring that economic hardships do not hinder the continuation of traditional practices. Through structured discussions, policy recommendations, and active participation in cultural forums, contributions are made

toward drafting guidelines that safeguard ICH while respecting community traditions and rights.

A cooperative approach ensures that policies are shaped by the voices of those who practice and preserve ICH. By bridging the gap between communities and policymakers, ICCN fosters an environment where heritage conservation is not just a governmental responsibility but a shared commitment across society, promoting inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural resilience.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively promotes the role of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in local Govt. sectors, Cities and Society by educating, empowering, and creating awareness among local Govts youth, ICH stake holders and communities. A primary strategy is to bridge generational gaps by fostering interaction and knowledge sharing between tradition bearers and younger generations. Regular training sessions, workshops, crash courses, and interactive activities focused on various art forms, crafts, and living heritage enhance cultural appreciation and skill development.

Special emphasis is placed on inclusivity, ensuring the active participation of women, transgender individuals, persons with disabilities, tribal communities, and other marginalized groups. By integrating ICH into empowerment programs, traditional knowledge and skills become tools for sustainable livelihoods, economic independence, and social inclusion. Training initiatives help artists enhance their capabilities, earn better livelihoods, and gain national and international exposure.

Seminars, exhibitions, competitions, and cultural events are organized to engage the public and policymakers in discussions on the significance of ICH. Close collaboration with local communities, educational institutions, and cultural organizations creates platforms that celebrate heritage while promoting its contemporary relevance.

By fostering awareness and hands-on participation, ICCN ensures that ICH remains a dynamic and integral part of societal growth. A holistic approach strengthens cultural identity, supports economic sustainability, and safeguards traditional knowledge for future generations while empowering communities to take pride in their heritage.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively raises awareness about intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through digital outreach, media collaborations, and national and international engagements. Information about activities, events, and training sessions is consistently updated and shared on social media platforms, ensuring broad accessibility and engagement. Collaborations with local media channels and influencers further expand outreach, fostering greater appreciation for ICH.

Participation in national and international cultural events provides a platform to showcase traditional art forms to wider audiences. Performing at prestigious festivals, hosting academic seminars, and organizing expert-led discussions create opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogue. Scholars, policymakers, and heritage experts are invited to contribute insights on safeguarding ICH, ensuring that discussions remain relevant and impactful.

At the grassroots level, close collaboration with communities, groups, and individuals support the documentation, preservation, and promotion of traditions. Workshops, exhibitions, and interactive sessions engage students, young artists, and marginalized communities, encouraging

active participation in heritage conservation. An inclusive approach ensures that tradition bearers receive recognition and support while inspiring future generations to carry forward their cultural legacy.

By leveraging modern technology, traditional media, and live performances, ICCN effectively bridges cultural knowledge with contemporary society, making ICH more accessible, appreciated, and safeguarded for future generations.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN fosters a strong sense of ownership among stakeholders, encouraging them to value and actively participate in conserving their intangible cultural heritage (ICH). The approach focuses on empowering artists and communities through training courses, workshops, and events that highlight the cultural and societal impact of their traditions. By creating opportunities for artists to showcase their skills and engage with wider audiences, they are motivated to take pride in their heritage and contribute to its preservation.

A key aspect of this effort is connecting various levels of stakeholders— Policy makers, artists, scholars, Local govts, and cultural institutions—to ensure transparency and openness within the community. Regular meetings, open forums, and interactive discussions provide platforms for stakeholders to share insights, voice concerns, and collaborate on initiatives that strengthen ICH safeguarding. Feedback collection and prompt action on suggestions ensure an inclusive and participatory approach, fostering trust and long-term commitment.

Partnerships between tradition bearers and academic institutions help integrate ICH into educational curricula and research projects. This not only enhances knowledge transmission but also provides artists with broader recognition and support.

By creating a structured and collaborative environment, ICCN ensures that communities, groups, and individuals feel directly involved in the conservation of their heritage. An inclusive and responsive approach strengthens the sustainability of ICH, allowing cultural traditions to thrive while adapting to contemporary societal needs.

B.8. *Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.*

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively engages in bilateral, sub regional, regional, and international cooperation to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Participation in conferences, meetings, and cultural forums organized by national and international agencies ensures the presentation of research papers, reports, and case studies on ICH preservation.

As a recognized institution in the field of folklore and heritage conservation, ICCN collaborates with global organizations, academic institutions, and cultural bodies to exchange knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches to safeguarding ICH. Partnerships with international agencies such as UNESCO and other organizations facilitate cross-cultural dialogue and create opportunities for artists and tradition bearers to participate in international festivals, exhibitions, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

At the Regional, National and international level ICCN promotes traditional art forms and

sustainable heritage practices. Through joint initiatives, research, training programs, and artist exchange programs, cross-border cultural ties are strengthened.

ICCN also takes the lead in hosting international events, inviting scholars, policymakers, and experts to discuss ICH-related challenges and solutions. By fostering cooperation at multiple levels, a more interconnected and resilient cultural landscape is cultivated, ensuring that ICH remains a vital and evolving part of global heritage discourse. Ongoing commitment to international collaboration reinforces the importance of shared responsibility in safeguarding the world's intangible cultural heritage.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN actively engages in bilateral, sub regional, regional, and international cooperation to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The organization collaborates with local Govts, Museums, UNESCO-accredited institutions, other governmental bodies, and cultural networks to promote the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and research on folklore and traditional arts.

As the Secretariat of the Inter City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network (ICCN), ICCN facilitates international dialogue and cooperation among cities committed to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Regular participation in global conferences, meetings, and cultural events allows for the presentation of research papers and reports on folklore conservation.

ICCN has organized and participated in international workshops, including those in Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, Slovakia, Iran and Palestine, fostering cross-cultural interactions. Collaborative training programs on traditional crafts and performing arts, engaging women, marginalized communities, and youth, have been key components of its initiatives. Additionally, ICCN contributes to the exchange of cultural experiences by staging traditional Kerala performances at international festivals and conducting research projects on indigenous art forms.

The organization also engages in documentation and research initiatives, sharing its findings with the global community. By facilitating cultural exchanges and advocating for policy initiatives, ICCN plays a vital role in the sustainable preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage worldwide.

B.10. *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN haven't participated in any of it, yet. But few proposals are underway

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

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

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

Not to exceed 250 words

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

D.1 Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN has participated in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Intergovernmental committee sessions.

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

Not to exceed 100 words

No ICCN haven't served as a member of the Evaluation Body, yet

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

Not to exceed 500 words

ICCN regularly participate in the UNESCO Inter-governmental committee meetings along with NGO forum meetings and codify the suggestions and thereby communicate them with the respective committees

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

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, the members of the organization have an impressive command of English. About 25, including Executive members, staffs and members have a good command of English language.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes

ICCN have been extending training to women, young generation, tribes, specially-abled in the traditional performing arts (Koodiyattam, Mudi yettu) and handicrafts (Bell metal crafts. Mural painting, Nettipattam, Handbag making, Palm leaf umbrella making, Terracotta jewellery/decors, etc.) for the past three decades.

To promote the living heritage, Folkland organize various events involving performances, academic seminars, exhibitions, hands-on workshop, etc. Periodic capacity building training sessions for the artistes and staffs, Interviewing and Documenting knowledge on various ICH from the tradition bearers, spiritual rituals & practices belonging to different parts of the state to research, understand and bring forward.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN has been involving as an expert organization in documentation and dossier preparation for the UNESCO proposals.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

ICCN has expertise in drafting synthetic texts in English for ICH element proposal, with an involvement of 05 members.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes. ICCN has participated in seminars and workshops organized by the 02 category organizations such as ICHCAP & IRCTC.

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

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

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

Yes

No

G. Signature

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

Name: Vayalkara Jayarajan

Title: Secretary General

Date: 01-02-2025

Signature:



For the purpose of collecting information, accredited non-governmental organizations are invited to answer the following question (optional). The information provided will not be assessed as part of the review of accreditation in the sense of paragraph 94 of the Operational Directives.

Participation in the work of the ICH NGO Forum

Has your organization contributed to the work of the ICH NGO Forum in the past four years? If yes, please tick the relevant box(es) and provide information below.

Member of the **Executive Board** of the ICH NGO Forum

If yes, indicate the period and the role played:

Member of a **thematic working group** established under the ICH NGO Forum

Specify the name of the working group, the period and the role played:

Organizer of an **event specifically convened for accredited non-governmental organizations**

Specify the name of the event, its target group and its date:

Other types of cooperation

Specify: Participating in the NGO Forum Meeting.