

**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.*

Indigenous Cultural Society 90178

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

Indigenous Cultural Society

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

90178

#### **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: Indigenous Cultural Society

Address: H.No.3, Churches Colony,Dimapur, Nagaland 797112,India (Old Address:  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Jakhalu Building, City Tawer Junction Dimapur, Nadaland, India.

Telephone number: 91 7005324758/7992099884

Email address: indigenoussc@yahoo.co.in

Website/Social media: www.indigenoussc.in

Other relevant information:

### A.3. Contact person for correspondence

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

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Dr.

Family name: Chishi

Given name: Hesheto

Position: Director

Postal address: H.No.3. Churches Colony,Dimapur Nagaland, India-797112

Telephone number: 91 7005324758/7992099884

Email address: indigenoussc@yahoo.in

Other relevant information: hchishi@yahoo.com

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

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Some of our revitalization programme that have contributed to our community are; traditional healer project, reviving tribals traditional healers profession. Through this project we network with quality council of India, North East Christian University, and AYUSH department and

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>

promote traditional community health care. Traditional healers were identified from eight north eastern states of India, motivated and oriented them and after minimum competency test, offer them certificate of traditional healer. Through our initiative we have certified more than 50 traditional healers. And to strengthen their welfare established North East Traditional Healers Association (NETHA), and state chapter Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya traditional healers Association in these respective states.

For the first of its time like medical consultation clinic we have established traditional healer consultation chamber and have started treating many sick people basically in five ailments: general ailment, jaundice, traditional bone setting, traditional birth attendant, and poisonous bite. Our certified traditional healer's livelihood is enhanced at unexpected surplus income. As a result, many non-certified healers are motivated, community health care services are made accessible at cost effective service, awareness and sense of safeguarding responsibility on flora and fauna, biodiversity and environment becomes major concerned subject of the whole community.

As a registered NGO body of the state government, Indigenous cultural Society is actively involved with the competent authority in the capacity of advisory body. So also network with the ministry of culture government of India in policy making body of ICH. We identify endangering elements of the region and area and facilitate fund from the government and safeguard them.

**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

Indigenous Culture Society (ICS) remain focus on Folk arts programmes, to create awareness, revive, safeguard and promote ICH at different of community platforms. oral traditions; to revive, performing arts; social practices; traditional knowledge; craftsmanship; and cultural economy

Indigenous Cultural Society has a good track record of networking with similar concern institutions and NGOs. So far our NGO has documented many folklores both in literary and dramatized form, folksongs, folkdance, traditional cultivation, traditional dietary etc. We are actively involving in revitalizing the endangering cultural elements and values. We have documented many cultural elements and published in video, audio and books form.

ICS network and collaborate with INTACH (India National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage) New Delhi, North East Christian University Nagaland, St. John University Nagaland, SHUATS University Prayagraj UP, Indira Gandhi Institute of Art and Culture New Delhi, CBSC (Central Board of Secondary education) New Delhi. Time to time we jointly organize different educational programmes of different levels: primary, middle school, high school, secondary schools, under graduate, post graduates, PhD and also further more. We do mentor thesis of many PG and PhD scholars in the culture related topics.

ICS also as NGO, actively associates with civil society organizations: Tribal Union, Mother's Associations, Youth organizations, Students' Union etc. We acted as an advisor, resource person and culture practitioners.

**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

Indigenous Cultural Society is known for its community participation team work system. It has identified cultural village and community for its research, documentation and promotional work and safeguard them. We have selected Lazami village, highest populous and oldest village of Sumi Naga tribes of Nagaland state of India, as cultural village. Lazami village symbolises archives and museum of tribal culture of Nagaland state. Their traditional life setting; language, diet, traditional agricultural cultivation, traditional attires, folklores, folksongs, folk dance, architect, customs, economy, art, literature, beliefs, concept, attitude, manner folk music, dress, and sports etc are revitalized, documented promoted and protected through mass participation.

Our inventory and research project is well acknowledged by the civil society, School departments, University, Church and Government as well. One of our achievements is the documentation of Naga tribal traditional *morung* (Dormitory architect) documented and published by North East Council Department, Government of India.

Our inventory project on traditional healer is another successful record. Many traditional healers were trained and certified by Quality Council of India (QCI) and AYUSH department. Their livelihood and sustainability have been enhanced and the practice of traditional healers is well accepted in the community and society. Revitalization of Traditional healer is not limited to community health care, but created awareness and safeguarding knowledge of conserving flora and fauna, and reviving traditional eco friendly and community living.

**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

As a concern cultural body through networking and collaboration we preserve and promote safeguarding measure of endangering elements which are still yet to research further, document and promote more and some which are gaining more popularity such as tribal folk arts, Maha Khumbh Mela and yoga at local, regional ,national and UNESCO level.

ICS has good track record of collaboration with Government and Civil Society. Especially, on conservation of flora and fauna. We tie up with village and local administration to ban the use of chemical for fishing, and cultivation, and restriction for hunting during breeding season. One of our networking platform, Nagaland State NGO forum achievements is protecting Amur falcon bird migratory birds in wokha district Nagaland during winter. We do tie up with wildlife and forest department of Nagaland state and work on conservation concerns.

**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

Indigenous Cultural Society as a community based platform has a good participation team work system. It has identified most endangering ICH for its research, documentation and promotional work to safeguard them. We have selected Lazami village, as cultural village. Lazami village symbolises archives and museum of especially Naga tribal culture research centre of Nagaland state. Most of their old village traditional life setting are still intact; original language, diet, traditional agricultural cultivation system, traditional attires, folklores, folksongs, folk dance, architect, customs ,economy, art, literature, beliefs, faith, concept, attitude, manners, folk music, dress, and sports etc are revitalized, documented promoted and protected through mass participation.

ICS work hand in hand with Art and Culture department, education department, different religious community and civil societies. We advocate regional language as second language in the schools, one day in a week to wear traditional dress as a school uniform. We educate people to opt for traditional organic diet and do away with industrial foods. We also educate Church to erase old notion and belief of tribal tradition and culture as pagan, hidden and uncivilized culture.

ICS promote performing art with high esteem, artist of different age group including differently able person are formed to promote through community participation. Traditional lifecycle rituals and rites which were abandoned by the advent of Christianity are beginning to restore at different levels. Our traditional knowledge is taken up for research and correlate with sciences, Tribal Craft is accepted in the school as one of the vocational subject, so do enhance sustainability and livelihood.

**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

ICS association and network with NGOs, civil societies, Churches, and different government and private agencies is immense. We continue to actively involved with and create and promote all the UNESCO ICH prescribed elements at different level. We especially focus on the students, religious institute and family where motivation and education are vital for learning. ICH elements :

1. Oral traditions and expressions:-

- Oral literature
- Language
- Folklore
- Customary
- Monument

2. Performing arts:-

- Folkdance
- Folk music/song
- Theatre
- Games and sports

3. Social practices, rituals and festive events:-

- Agriculture
- Festivals
- Rituals
- Mithun sacrifice

4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe:-

- Documentary
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Environment awareness
- Lycanthropy
- Seminar
- Sports

5. Traditional craftsmanship:-

- Crafts
- Household items
- Fire igniting
- Stone puling
- Spinning
- Thread Dying
- Pounding wood
- Dress Mekhala (wrap around) and shawls.

6. Other domains:

- Cultural exchange program
- Empowerment and livelihood program

Socio cultural Campaign.

Time to time apart from regular ICH awareness programme, in many students' and public events we deliver speech on awareness and educate people.

**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*

ICS as a community based NGO works with community through community participation programmes. Primary safeguarding measures ICS organization is involved with are:

1. Identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making):-

ICH as material Science, we collaboration with Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Genealogy

Traditional stone pulling

2. Preservation, protection:-

Traditional Morung(hostel/dormitory) institution is reviving.

Historical places

Cotton spinning

Environment

3. Promotion, enhancement:-

Folk songs

Music

Dance

Theatre-publication

4. Transmission, formal and non-formal education:-

Folklore

Wisdom sayings

Indigenous Knowledge of community learning

Customary Article 371 A of Indian Constitution.

Indigenous skill training such as, bamboo and cane weaving, wood and stone curving for youth.

5. Revitalization:-

Tribal Language, morung architect

Indigenous sports: spear kick, top, wild seed, fire ignition

Martial arts Kiti do, apukhukiti,

Husk pounding

Folksong

6. Other safeguarding measures:-

Traditional hospitality

Treaty between inter tribal

Cultural exchange

Interfaith dialogue

Conflict and displacement

Advocacy and Awareness programme

Especially in folk-art traditional healers programme we heavily engage community in organizing free

traditional health camp and preservation of medicinal flora and fauna.

**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

ICS valuing team work has strong ties of networking and partnering relations with ICCN, and Ministry of Culture Government of India and autonomous agencies ie.: Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) New Delhi; for children artist, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) Mysore; for promotion of tribal language, Sangeet Natak Akademy; for folksong, folkmusic, folkdance. National School of Drama; for theatre and dramatizing folklores. Sahitya Akademy (letters), Quality council of India, AYUSH, NECU university, St.John University, SHUATS University etc; for awareness, promotion, research, documentation and publication of oral literature and ICH elements. Wada Na Tado Abhiyan (a leading National NGO); for socio cultural related activities and programmes. CSOs, NGOs and faith based organizations; for sharing relevant and related socio cultural concerns of diverse and inter cultural communities.

**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

Indigenous Cultural Society as an advisory body to the state government and regional North Eastern States of India, assist state Art and Culture department and North East Zone Cultural Centre(NEZCC) of Minisrty of Culture, Government of India. We help the compitentent authority in project evaluation and analyses and action plan for implementation of short term, medium term and long term plan of ICH objectives.

**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

As a concern cultural body through networking and collaboration we preserve and promote endangering elements which are still yet to research, document and promote more and some which are gaining more popularity such as sanskritana of Manipuri dance, Maha khumbh Mela and yoga at local, regional ,national and UNESCO level.

## 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

Indigenous Cultural Society association with UNESCO has been immensely benefited, our NGO in particular and community that we represents as a whole. We are so grateful to the esteemed authority of

UNESCO for extending keen concern even to the most neglected tribal community of the world. Recognising our NGO's objectives and activities by UNESCO itself is an achievement for our tribal NGO.

All our activities are enshrined with the UNESCO ICH elements. We are directly involved with UNESCO as an accredited body. We do research, documentation, revitalize, and promote at local, regional, national and international levels through community participation.

We owe a great debt to UNESCO for realising the need of networking, association and upliftment of cultural community of the world. We acknowledge the support of UNESCO especially towards a community such as ours, a developing country, who are politically deprived, economically marginalized and socially discriminated.

UNESCO has paved the way for us to see the world cultural community, educate us to see and learn endangering elements and the need to safeguard them, without which act of kindness it would have been a mere distant dream for many of us.

Through the assistance provided by UNESCO our NGO could participate at three ICH programme 8 COM Baku Azerbaijan 2013, 9 COM Paris France 2014 and 11COM Addis Ababa Ethiopia 2016. And Jeju Island South Korea. We participate through online at Sri Lanka session, and other sessions wherever such provisions were made available.

## **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*

Only online, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, as working group.

**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

**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*

Yes, We anticipate the responsibility and challenges of the assignment in the near future.

## **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, English language. Five (5) staff. One in Cultural Studies, two in oral literature, one in



theatre and one in folkdance and folkmusic.

**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, Dr.Y.Hesheto Chishi, Director ICS is a recognized tribal folkarts Guru by the ministry of Culture Government of India, Recipient of Nagaland State Government Governor's award, Literature award. He is known as culture activist, researcher, writer, and scholar etc. Besides, all our staff are culture experts in different fields.

In spite of Challenging experience, our fourfold methodology of documentation, research, coding and promotion did tremendous work to serve our purpose. All six domains of ICH gave us equal strength and outcome. It enabled us to revitalize many lost elements of ICH ie.; oral literature,language,customary, folksongs,folkmusics,folkdance steps, indigenous games, Agriculture ,Festivals ,Rituals, Mithun sacrifice, Indigenous Knowledge ,Environment awareness, Lycanthropy, and Traditional traditional healer craftsmanship; Crafts,Household items,Dress Mekhala (wrap around) and shawls. Other domains, Cultural exchange program, treaty, Empowerment and livelihood program, and Socio cultural Campaign.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

ICS as an advisory body to state art and culture department and NEZCC ministry of Culture Government of India evaluates and analyses many project write-up and reports at every interval of time .

**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*

Yes, in English. ICH Culture research works ie. Folklores, folksongs and wisdom sayings, folkdance,traditional belief and faith traditional knowledge, traditional healers and medicinal herbs.

**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, traditional healers camp at hornbill international festival, Kohima Nagaland India, where we treated and interacted with many foreign tourist and researchers. ICS have introduced Naga Massage. Our traditional healers treat people in six components: 1. General Ailments, 2. Traditional bone setting, 3. Traditional birth attendant, 4.juandice 5. Poisonous bite 6. Arthritis

ICS has its traditional community health clinic and attends many patients domestic and abroad. Our unique value is cost effective and accessible. Tribal traditional healer practice is in demand as it provides total wellbeing and holistic treatment. ICS has maximum potential to associate with national and international level.

## 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: Y.Hesheto Chishi

Title: Dr.

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Signature: hchishi

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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: Climate change & environment 2021 till date, Result framework 2020, Ethnic working group 2020, Conflict and displacement 2023 till date

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: active in all online meetings and webinar seminars/ symposium/workshop.