



**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.*

National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management Foundation

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

National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) Foundation

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

NGO-90229

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: National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) Foundation

Address: Johan van Walbeekplein 13
Willemstad, Curaçao

Telephone number: [\(+599 9\) 462 1933](tel:+59994621933)
[\(+599 9\) 462 1934](tel:+59994621934)

Email address: info@naam.cw

Website/Social media: www.naam.cw

Other relevant information: NAAM Foundation also hosts two other websites:
www.elisjuliana.org a website in Papiamentu dedicated to Elis Juliana, a local cultural icon that collected and recorded much on intangible heritage
www.sambumbu.com a website in Dutch on ethnology tidbits chronicled by Paul Brenneker

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

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

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): [Mr.](#)

Family name: [Cloose](#)

Given name: [Dimitri](#)

Position: [Director](#)

Postal address: [Johan van Walbeeckplein 13, Willemstad, Curaçao](#)

Telephone number: [\(+599 9\) 462 1933](tel:+59994621933) - [462 1934](tel:+59994621934)

Email address: d.cloose@naam.cw
info@naam.cw

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

NAAM Foundation has long collaborated with NATCOM and other institutions to promote and educate people about culture and intangible heritage. Our research, rooted in a civil society perspective, focuses on contemporary cultural-historical issues in communities and living heritage, documenting traditions and transfer of knowledge. In recent years, NAAM has extensively researched the legacy and heritage of the enslaved, positioning itself as a dynamic entity in transition and awareness, rather than a static research institute. Public interaction and empowerment are central to this approach. In 2024, NAAM, in partnership with the Ministry in the Netherlands, organized a working session with the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles, openly discussing the challenges and realities of the cultural sector. This initiative improved communication and cooperation between island institutes. At the end of last year, NAAM facilitated a three-week writer's camp, enabling grassroots organizations to draft their own project applications for funding. Additionally, two vacancies were created for local young professionals in Education and Innovation and Heritage Data within the NAAM Foundation.

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

NAAM Foundation focuses on education and awareness through various projects. It began with an exhibition on 100 years of oil refining in Curaçao, linking migration, demographics, socio-political interests, and arts to the refinery. Many young visitors discovered their family's ties to the oil industry, enriched by older generations' testimonies. NAAM then launched a project on the workers' uprising, May 30, 1969, outlining the social structure before this event. Data was gathered through oral history and literature, revealing participants' negative feelings due to misinformation. A documentary series of in-depth interviews was produced, and a successful secondary education project on this topic was launched last year. Currently, three projects emphasize the importance of Living Heritage. The first study addresses negative transference of power, beauty ideals, and self-imagery, tracing back to slavery and perpetuated by the community. The second project focuses on water management in the context of climate change, highlighting the challenges between farmers' cultural practices and innovative policy ideas. The final study examines urban slavery, aiming to show the significant contributions of the enslaved to the island's development, often overshadowed by colonial narratives. The enslaved are recognized not as disposable tools but as bearers of knowledge and skills.

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>

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

NAAM Foundation prioritizes research, registration, and recording as key goals. For several years, we have maintained a digital cultural value map, which was expanded last year to include Afro-Curaçaoan heritage, from villages of the enslaved to non-Christian cemeteries, and will be presented this coming March. The project on the uprising on May 30, 1969, has introduced a new narrative to one of the island's most impactful events by uncovering and sharing new information. This year, the NAAM collection will be further made accessible, linking objects to stories, testimonials, songs, and other expressions. Our website will be updated, analog information, such as audiovisuals, will be digitized, and digital documents made accessible online. Through a registration program the collections will be organized, providing metadata, photos, and other features. NAAM also manages the local ICH list of NATCOM, which is linked to the collection and available information. The organization is increasingly profiling itself through articles and lectures to present its activities, possibilities, and tasks. The demand for Living Heritage is increasing, now that more information is shared with the public.

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

NAAM Foundation has long been active in policy, legal and administrative measures. However, implementing conventions like the Malta (Valletta) Treaty, the European convention for the conservation of archaeological heritage, within structural planification faces many challenges. The UNESCO Convention for the protection of underwater cultural heritage is included in the law, but appointing an official authority remains problematic, as does the UNESCO Convention for the protection of ICH. NAAM manages the ICH list with NATCOM, but implementation is still pending. Despite policy challenges, NAAM adheres to the conditions and uses its projects to support various treaties and conditions. In our water management research, NAAM advocates for including culture as the driving force for policymaking. In our cultural landscapes project, we consciously continue to reference the Treaties of Malta and Faro.

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

NAAM Foundation centers its work around intangible heritage, which is rooted in the community's daily reality. Our slogan, "heritage is today," emphasizes that heritage relies on active citizen participation. Findings must be linked to stories or present-day relevance, allowing the local community to identify with them. Otherwise, they remain mere remnants of the past. This approach defines our concept of living heritage. All our projects utilize ethnographic descriptions, oral histories, and personal interpretations to substantiate cultural-historical contexts. These sources, including collections managed by NAAM with UNESCO MOW status, are crucial. Our ICH list is based on cultural expressions, beliefs, and experiences, identifying those who manage and maintain them. We strive to digitize everything, from documents to photos and audiovisual fragments, and to make them accessible online. It's vital that the public also takes responsibility for safeguarding intangible heritage by keeping it alive.

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

NAAM Foundation raises awareness through inclusive projects and public outreach. Despite often negative historical subjects, our projects aim to cast heritage in a positive light by focusing on the strength within ICH. We use public lectures, publications, audiovisual productions, educational projects, and social media to place common people's stories in a historical and living heritage context. Our approach involves creating new narratives through new research based on social science principles, avoiding repetition. Public involvement is crucial, starting from the research phase, where we collaborate with locals and use surveys and interviews as our reference. The results are shared with the public, translating scientific jargon into accessible language for everyone. Information is translated into Papiamentu, Dutch, and English, the island's three official languages, without losing context. We strive to offer each project or theme as an educational project for regular or after-school activities. Without public awareness, research results are meaningless.

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

For years, the NAAM Foundation has engaged communities, groups, individuals, and other stakeholders in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Our research emphasizes community engagement from a civil society perspective, involving locals in researching their own heritage. This approach highlights the added value of local perspectives. Scientists follow methodologies that form our theoretical foundation and action plans, but we supplement scientific data with stories, practical examples, language use, topography, and ethnographic descriptions. Heritage comes to life by connecting historical sources, personal memories, nostalgia, historical photos, maps, illustrations, art, and music to contemporary reality. We compare the old with the new, examining changes, continuities, and how people dealt with issues then versus now. This development and adaptation demonstrate the resilience of intangible cultural heritage (ICH).

We believe safeguarding ICH means not halting development but documenting and recording living history, allowing it to evolve. Regular documentation helps observe adaptation patterns over time. Strictly adhering to ICH without allowing new generations to influence and change it stifles heritage, risking its loss due to a lack of development and adaptation.

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

NAAM Foundation is increasingly engaging in (sub)regional and international collaborations. In the first trimester of last year, a working session with various NGOs from the former Netherlands Antilles focused on the impact of slavery. Mid-year, a conference within the Dutch Caribbean Heritage Platform (DCHP) on the Windward Islands fostered close contacts with other stakeholders. NAAM shared its community-based approach, emphasizing the importance of living heritage in cultural-historical research. Later, a workshop on higher education between the universities of the ABC islands led NAAM to explore a knowledge network among the islands. Collaborations were also established with the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands and the Association of Caribbean University, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) for the 2025 conference. Within the Caribbean region, NAAM partnered with the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) to deliver educational material and future projects. As digitization progresses, more collaborations and network connections are expected. The islands of the former Netherlands Antilles, and other islands, need each other for comparative material, similar topics, best practices, and ideas on heritage management and preservation, especially ICH.

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

NAAM Foundation is not involved in this process.

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

NAAM Foundation, in collaboration with NATCOM, manages the ICH list, created several years ago. This document includes many living legacies with brief descriptions of their importance. Each intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is linked to an NGO responsible for its safeguarding. The document also examines what these organizations have done and continue to do for this heritage. A SWOT analysis identifies the challenges for each specific ICH. However, many living heritages lack NGO support, which has been noted. These ICHs must be safeguarded and are marked as threatened. The list is meant to be handed over to the government under the Convention for the protection and safeguarding of ICH, but this has not yet occurred.

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

NAAM Foundation previously held a seat in the local NATCOM of Curacao. However, due to limited manpower, time constraints, and our own priorities, we have withdrawn as an institute. Despite this, NAAM continues to contribute by participating in the ICH list and ensuring compliance with the ICH Convention. Unfortunately, we cannot attend all meetings, so we have excused ourselves from being an active NATCOM member.

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

NAAM Foundation has not been a part or participated.

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

NAAM Foundation has not been a part or served as a member.

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

NAAM Foundation manages the ICH list and adheres to the provisions of the ICH Convention. We are always open to providing advice when requested. For instance, we regularly offer guidance on the UNESCO Convention for the preservation of underwater heritage for permit applications related to water plot developments. In this context, we are also available to give advice about ICH.

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

All six employees at NAAM Foundation are proficient in at least four languages: Dutch, English, Papiamentu, and Spanish. Unfortunately, French is not spoken. Our regional and international correspondence is always conducted in English, including proposals, requests, and articles submitted for publication.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

NAAM Foundation focuses on the cultural-historical context and living heritage within Curaçao society from a holistic and inclusive perspective. We consider all forms, subcultures, angles, and views. Caribbean communities are young societies formed by migrants from older cultures, creating a new reality for their inhabitants. This makes the region fascinating but also challenging to understand and describe. Our approach is interdisciplinary, domain and area-transcending, connecting the past and present, but also between material, immovable and movable, and intangible heritage.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

NAAM Foundation has never analysed proposals or applications from others.

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

NAAM Foundation does not use synthetic texts. We utilize AI and other technologies for grammar, translations, and textual structures. All our content is derived from our own research, collections, and findings. We create our own maps using GIS4 and use original photographs (both archival and newly taken) and illustrations.

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

NAAM Foundation is engaged in several international projects with partners from various countries. Our cultural landscapes project involves collaborations with universities and institutes from Canada (SFU), Germany (Max Planck), Australia (UQ), and the USA (InTerris Reg.). Another project, focusing on the contributions of the enslaved to contemporary society, is a collaboration with Virginia, USA (UVA), and Colombia (Cartagena). Our higher education project includes partnerships with Aruba, Sint Maarten, and the Netherlands. Additionally, our collaboration within the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) involves partners from Haiti, Caricom, Bahamas, Belize, Venezuela, USA (Florida), Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. NAAM Foundation also has other ongoing collaborations and agreements with international organizations.

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: Dimitri Cloose

Title: Director

Date: February 15, 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: