

**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.*

MAA CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

MAA CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

CLT/LHE/25/NGO-90183/056

#### **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:            maa cultural heritage

Address:	499-10400
Telephone number:	+254 710 171 178, +254 798 064 549
Email address:	maasaiculturalheritage@gmail.com
Website/Social media:	www.mch-kenya.org
Other relevant information:	Lucy Lemaikai +254 798 064 549,Project Coordinator

### 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:	Ole Tingoi
Given name:	John
Position:	Chairman
Postal address:	1885-10400
Telephone number:	+254 710 171 178
Email address:	oletingoi@gmail.com
Other relevant information:	Lucy Lemaikai +254 798 064 549,Project Coordinator

**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*

Maasai cultural heritage organisations work with traditional knowledge holders in the target communities and other community institutions and government institutions within the devolved departments at the county level to bridge the knowledge gaps and skills in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Learning echanges,organizing bootcamps for youths and documenting the knowledge that exist among the old people(elders)

**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*

Maasai cultural heritage organization collaborate with communities in our project area, work closely with relevant government departments in the county and national government.at the county we work with departments of culture,environment,water,natural resource and climate change and department of land for community land registration. Creating awareness and using technology to document use of cultural related resource among indigenous communities and use of such documentaries to advocate for better management of natural resources that exist among communities and rangeland restoration for better ecological benefits that contribute to their livelihoods. Documenting the traditional cultural expressions,folklore and indigenous knowledge on traditional medicine for both human and livestock which is disappearing and can only be available to the next generation by documenting and archiving for future use. We use indigenous fellows from these communities who have graduated in photography and videography and a way to build their capacities of enhancing their languages and interacting with grassroots and reconnecting with their communities after many years of being away to school.

**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*

On traditional knowledge on the medicinal herbs, we assist them to document and use their medicine more as opposed to depending on the conventional medicine. We collaborate with various government departments with mandate on research and disseminate information to the communities.

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.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

Maasai cultural heritage lobbied and influenced funding of the government by a UN agency, world intellectual property organization which enabled the formulation of the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions act. This was geared towards safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and other cultural resources that face threats of exploitation in Kenya. Further we work with national museums of Kenya in creating awareness to the communities on the needs to have community-based museums for protection of their cultural related resources. one of the community strategies we have supported is the development of biocultural maps and biocultural protocols so that communities can own and control their territories and resources therein. We have also drafted an FPIC (free prior informed consent) manual and lobbied the government to adopt to regulate investments and other mega projects that comes to the indigenous peoples territories hence guaranteeing fair negotiations and protection of the intangible cultural heritage of indigenous people. <https://youtu.be/6rrNdxTIS2c?t=11>

**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

We encourage the communities to use their cultural heritage as a way to bond them and have ownership and control over it. We also help them to document so that they can transfer to the future generation. We encourage them to preserve and protect from exploitation and unfair use by third parties. <https://youtu.be/MfYDq8y8Aj8>

**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

In 23 arid and semi-arid land counties in Kenya, we conduct annual community land summit to discuss with all indigenous communities in those counties about protecting their land using the existing laws and protecting their culture and related resources for their future and wellbeing of these communities. We further assist strengthen their traditional governance structures to be able to implement full potential of the culture and address external influence through developing and using FPIC principles on matters that affect their heritage. Secure land tenure is very important and contribute to strengthen the community ownership and control of their cultural resources in their territories. This is an annual event to ensure indigenous communities learn from each other and provide a forum to interact with relevant government departments that are obligated to enforce the law.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

We work with indigenous communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage by identifying the challenges that face several aspects of the culture and map out existing laws in the country and internationally that protect the culture. We assist them document this aspect of the culture and archive for young people to learn about and continue protection and conservation. We develop centre for information storage and learning.

**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

at the subregional level we collaborated in the advocacy on the risks involved to the intangible cultural heritage of the Maasai of Ngorongoro during their evictions from their territory by the government to pave way for private investor. We lobbied for indigenous communities to sign their petition to stop the eviction.

**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

This is through consultative meetings with government departments at the county level and other government bodies like the national museums of Kenya.

**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

N/A

## 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

Have worked with UNESCO LINKS programme, research was carried out by Maasai cultural heritage with facilitation from UNESCO (LINKS Programme), set out to understand the pastoralists' indigenous knowledge-based insights on the weather and climate phenomenon of the study area. The research targeted pastoralists of certain ages/age-sets within the communities who have witnessed the changes in the landscape that influence the local micro-climate for over a period of 30 years. The dialogue showed that this knowledge can feed scientific forecasting processes and enrich understanding of the local level weather. Furthermore, it also showed that indigenous peoples understanding of the weather is one of the elements needed by them to implement a sustainable management of the larger territory to which this rain belt is part of, an aspect that for centuries has enabled pastoralists to cope with climate variability and will prove to be fundamental to cope with climate change effects in the area. we also work and participate in periodic meetings of the global tasks force for making a decade of action for indigenous languages.

## 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*

NONE

**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*

We once provided a report to the commission of UNESCO Nairobi desk which we believe they use it to inform the country reports. We foresee providing advisory services to the committee despite having not gotten an opportunity to participate physically in the meetings held in Paris which we feel it as an opportunity to interact and learn from other indigenous organizations experiences with their communities. We have also raised a community concern about a plan to register one of the community forests as a world heritage site without taking the right procedures at the country level which brought in dialogues among communities living around the forest (mukogodo forest in laikipia county, north Kenya).

## 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*

Being a small and lean organization from the grassroots level. Our staff, some of the board members and advisors understand English fluently. Five of us have proficiency in English and can translate into local languages of maa, Samburu and Swahili. Our advisor has been a key indigenous leader who have worked with UN agencies and participate in high level international meetings and has been building the capacities of indigenous people organizations and communities.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Documenting our cultural heritage and cultural expressions is part of our main work as an organization and revitalizing language that face eroding from the western influence. Creating learning materials and centres for youths to learn all aspect of the culture through interaction with old members of the communities who are custodian of the culture and using technology to transfer such knowledge to the youth. The use of local artists for entertainment and deliver key messages on the importance of our intangible cultural heritage is playing a big role in creating awareness mostly among the youths. Documenting our rituals and ceremonies that bond the people and culture is part of our work as shown by the link below

<https://mch-kenya.org/indigenous-traditional-ceremonies/>

<https://mch-kenya.org/indigenous-skills-and-technologies/>

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

Not to exceed 250 words

We analyse local proposals from community organizations and whereby we provide direct financing to community groups.

**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

Three of our colleagues have the ability in drafting synthetic texts. Two of them are videographers and photographers. Most of their work in the organizations involve such kind of work including transcriptions. They produce learning materials for communities and advocacy materials for policy influence and lobbying.

**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, two of us have worked with international organizations(ILO and WIPO) and we have been following the international discussions on issues affecting our communities on the ground including CBD,UNFCCC,UNCCD,CSW and UN permanent forum for indigenous peoples. We have conducted side events in such forums to create awareness on our work and raise issues affecting indigenous people on investments that displace communities, effects of climate change and adaptations by indigenous people. We have initiatives that empower communities to implement projects by themselves by shifting power to communities to be able to implement by their own. We work both at the community level and link challenges to the national and international discussions.identify policy gaps and carry out stakeholders engagement to strengthen development and review of policies.

## 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

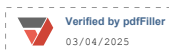
The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: LUCY LEMAIKAI

Title: PROJECT COORDINATOR

Date: 4/03/2025

Signature: *lucy lemaikai*



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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:

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: