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# Global reflection meeting on the periodic reporting mechanisms of the 2003 Convention

*Item 3b: Reporting on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List*

*Presentation by Ľubica Voľanská, member of the UNESCO's global network of facilitators, 28-30 April 2026*



# Reporting on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List: overview

Chapter V.2 of the Operational Directives addresses reporting by States Parties on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Paragraphs 162 and 163 outline the information that States Parties are required to report.

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## Current status of the element

Element's social and cultural functions

Element's viability and current risks

Impacts of the efforts to safeguard the element

Updated safeguarding plan

Participation of communities and NGOs in the element's safeguarding

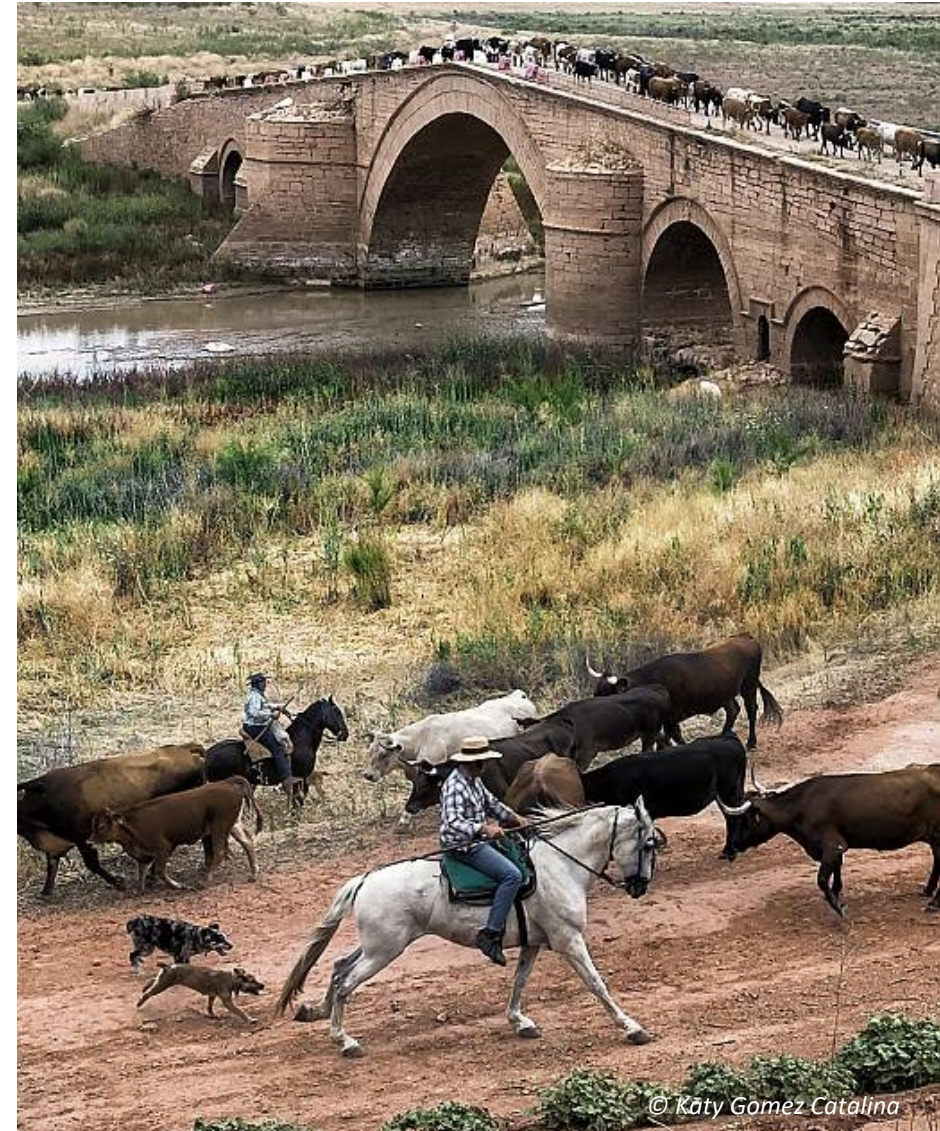
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## Institutional context for safeguarding the element

Competent body(ies) involved in the element's safeguarding

Organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding

*States Parties shall pay particular attention to the **role of gender** and **involve communities** as broadly as possible*



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# Reporting on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List: approach

- Self-assessment and not a competition.
- Capturing progress as well as a moment to reflect, rethink and improve safeguarding measures and approaches to enhance elements' safeguarding and viability.
- Useful space to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- Challenging process, as living heritage elements:
  - Vary in nature (e. g. cover different living heritage domains and community-based practices).
  - Context-sensitive – rooted in diverse cultural, environmental and socio-economic environments.
  - No 'one fits all' approach.



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# Reporting on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List: Form ICH-11

States Parties shall use **Form ICH-11** to report on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List.

## Section A - Overview

- Seven sections requesting general information on the reporting State.

## Section B – Status of element inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List

- Structured around **3 main sub-sections** requesting information on the element's **social and cultural function** (B.1), **viability and current risks** (B.2) and implementation of **safeguarding measures** (B.3).

## Section C – Updating of safeguarding measures

- Structured around **5 main sub-sections** covering updated **safeguarding plan** (C.1), **timetable** (C.2) and **budget** (C.3) for future activities, **community participation** (C.4) and the current **institutional context** (C.5).

## Section D – Participation of communities in preparing the report

- This section aims to gather information on the measure taken to ensure **communities and NGOs participation**.

## Section E - Signature on behalf of the State Party

- The final section of the form includes the **signature of the official empowered** to sign the report on behalf of the State, including name, title and date of submission



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# Safeguarding approaches: think out of the box

- Integration of **living heritage** into school **curricula** and use of **inventories** as **educational tools**.
- Development of **mobile exhibitions** on the element concerned to enhance visibility and awareness-raising.
- Use of **digital platforms and tools** (e.g. tutorials, podcasts, archives and other digital applications).
- Establishment of **new partnerships** and harnessing of **in-kind** contributions in low-resource contexts.
- UNESCO-related cooperation.

*Sometimes, **challenging situations** can trigger **innovative safeguarding approaches** (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic)*



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# Community participation in the preparation of periodic reports

- Participatory process: **Communities at the core of the reporting exercise.**
- Paragraph 160 of the Operational Directive – States Parties shall endeavour to **involve as broadly as possible the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned, as well as relevant NGOs.**
- States Parties shall pay special attention to the **role of gender.**



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# Viability and risks of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List

Some **risks to the viability** of living heritage elements may include:

- The aging of practitioners and bearers.
- Declining interest and engagement among younger generations.
- Limited access to materials required for the practice of living heritage.
- Patterns of urban migration.
- Increasing pressures related to commercialization.
- Environmental degradation and impacts of climate change.



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# Lessons learned from the analysis of periodic reports on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List

Valuable opportunity to:

- Tracking progress, needs and areas for improvement in a transparent manner.
- Strategic and long-term vision for living heritage safeguarding, while building on Committee's decisions and recommendations.
- Reinforce local safeguarding systems.
- Engagement in other international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention (e.g. International Assistance).
- Sharing of safeguarding approaches
- Possible transfer requests from the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List.



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# Lessons learned from the analysis of periodic reports on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List

When preparing the periodic report, be **detailed**, but **balanced**.

- **What:** objectives and activities.
- **When:** timelines.
- **Who:** coordination roles.
- **How:** community involvement and budget sustainability.

*Periodic reports can also include possible intentions to request **international assistance**, or a **transfer** to the Urgent Safeguarding List to the Representative List.*



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