**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE   
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
 SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Electronic Bureau consultation**

**21 March to 15 April 2016**

**DECISIONS**

DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 1.2

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/1, as well as the international assistance request No. 01121,
3. Takes note that Fiji has requested international assistance for a project entitled ‘**Safeguarding the knowledge systems associated with Traditional Fijian (iTaukei) house (Bure) construction methods in Navala village, Fiji**’:

The art, oral traditions, cultural and historical proponents of constructing traditional houses by indigenous people of Fiji are gradually disappearing. The proposed project will be undertaken at Navala village in the upper Ba watershed, located in the Western Province of Fiji and will aim to sustain knowledge associated with traditional *bures* (houses) through the reconstruction and rehabilitation of bures in Navala village. Similarly, it is envisaged that the current traditional housing landscape of the village of Navala will be safeguarded through a cultural mapping process, revival of oral traditions and strengthening of related knowledge about the use of environmental resources. The sharing and revitalizing of architectural knowledge is expected to have a ripple effect in strengthening the iTaukei people’s worldview, including indigenous ecological and ancestral knowledge and epistemology of Vanua based on the holistic interconnectedness of human beings and their environment. The project intends to strengthen the capacities of iTaukei people in watershed management, improve their wellbeing, promote the continuation of traditional lifestyles by encouraging the planting of native tree species used for constructing the bures, as well as reviving food crops and vegetables using demo-plots. Coordinated by the Centre for Sustainable Technology and Development of the Fiji National University, project implementation on the ground will be ensured by the Navala Village Development Committee.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Fiji requested an allocation of US$25,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01121, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting international assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: Although the request does not specify whether the communities of Navala village and upper Ba province participated in its preparation, their involvement in implementation and evaluation of the proposed project is demonstrated throughout the request; community members are currently involved in similar ongoing projects carried out by the Fiji National University and the Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts; the present project plans to actively involve, in all its activities, the different generations of Navala villagers with a key role reserved for the elders in bure construction, rehabilitation and transmission of skills and a local partner for the implementation of all activities on the ground, namely the Navala Village Development Committee.

**Criterion A.2**: Although the request includes a detailed budget covering all activities planned under the project demonstrating the appropriateness of the requested amount, the presentation of the budget does not allow easy visualization of costs by activity; it is also not easy to distinguish between activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and those to be financed with resources from the requesting State or other sources.

**Criterion A.3**: The request is clearly structured and includes a series of activities that are well-conceived and presented in a logical sequence from preliminary consultations with the Navala community and neighbouring villages of the Ba district, fieldwork and data collection to the development of a series of project products; coherence between planned activities and proposed budget and timetable is a determining factor for the feasibility of the project.

**Criterion A.4**: The project’s long-term results such as restoring and reconstructing bures or safeguarding traditional beliefs, historical place-based knowledge, artistic and literary works, songs and oral narratives, will be self-replicating; falling within local management plans and incorporating the holistic concept of Vanua, the project activities are expected to create their own synergies, encourage participatory encouragement of both elders and youth of the Navala community and inspire other youth in upper Ba to safeguard knowledge systems for future generations.

**Criterion A.5**: Fifteen per cent of the total budget of the project for which international assistance is requested will be covered by the State Party and the project partners.

**Criterion A.6**: Community engagement and building capacity are key components of the project; involving members of the village, district and province in rehabilitation and reconstruction of bures in Navala village, as well as in cultural mapping, will ensure capacity building towards preserving landscapes and safeguarding oral histories and traditional ecological knowledge; capacity of children and youth will be also improved by working alongside elders, building bures and assimilating what they learn of the iTaukei way of life.

**Criterion A.7**: Fiji has never implemented activities financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and will involve implementation by national and local implementing partners.

**Paragraph 10(b):** While the request specifies certain effects that may result from the project (income-generation for community members, integration of environmental programmes into school curricula, improved watershed management or expanding fields of research to other traditional science applications), it does not explain how these could be used to stimulate financial or technical contributions from other sources other than the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

1. Decides to approve the international assistance request from Fiji for a project entitled ‘**Safeguarding the knowledge systems associated with Traditional Fijian (iTaukei) house (Bure) construction methods in Navala village, Fiji**’ and to grant an amount of US$25,000 to the State Party to this end;
2. Reminds the State Party that the Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage do not provide support for the preparation of a nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity or of the related documentation, and that such an activity, or any cost associated with it, cannot be included in the contract to be established between UNESCO and the implementing agency designated by the State;
3. Requests the Secretariat to reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to the detailed budget and timetable of activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
4. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of assistance provided.

DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 1.3

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/1, as well as the international assistance request no. 01021,
3. Takes note that Kenya has requested international assistance for a project entitled ‘**Promotion of traditional pottery making practices in Eastern Kenya**’:

The proposed project, which is designed in line with the 2006 National Heritage Act of Kenya, aims to safeguard and revitalize traditional pottery making practices of the Mbeere, Tharaka and Tigania communities in Eastern Kenya. Transmitted by females within families, the technique involves creating clay pots of various sizes and shapes depending on the function and style of the community concerned. Some pots are produced for rituals, ceremonies or social gatherings while others are used to store water or cook food. The craft is closely linked to social practices and foodways of the communities concerned and provides a livelihood for many families. Today, due to the amount of labour required and low profit combined with the impact of formal education, the number of pottery making practitioners has decreased and the activity no longer tends to be prioritized by potter families. Moreover, aluminium pots are increasingly being used as an alternative, which in turn has also affected traditional cooking and water conservation methods. Implemented by the National Museums of Kenya, the project intends to revitalize traditional pottery making practices and restore related social functions while enhancing existing production techniques. Planned activities include revitalization of transmission methods, diversification of pottery forms and styles to better respond to market demands, integration of more efficient ways of production (e.g. improvement of the performance of kilns for enhanced energy conservation), the organization of potters into groups and documentation for tradition training purposes.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns the support for a project carried out at local level aimed at the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Kenya requested an allocation of US$23,388 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for implementation of the project;
3. Decides that,from the information provided in file no. 01021, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting international assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request clearly demonstrates involvement of the communities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the project; activities were designed in response to Mbeere potters’ request for assistance and in close consultation with the potter communities of Tharaka and Tigania; one project coordinator for each community will work with the project coordinating team on the planning and implementation of activities; the central role of the potters in the activities, such as training children and the promotion of pottery making practices in schools, is clearly outlined in the request as well as their active contribution to evaluation of the project and reporting using a journal for daily activities, which will also be integrated into the final report.

**Criterion A.2**: The overall amount requested seems appropriate and adequately covers each of the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The request is clearly structured and includes a series of 11 activities that are well-conceived and presented in a logical sequence; the proposed activities correspond to the objectives of the project and are planned according to a calendar, which appears realistic for the time allocated.

**Criterion A.4**: The involvement of all groups, including women and children, is expected to contribute to the project’s continuity after its formal completion; proposed activities, which focus on the role of women as essential transmitters of the practice, will include the establishment of female potter groups in communities so concerns of practitioners can be voiced more effectively and greater access to micro-credit facilities gained; the project also seeks to build interest among youth to ensure sustainability of traditional pottery making practices and children will be involved in many activities, including awareness-raising workshops in schools and the use of a customized booklet.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will share 12 per cent of the total amount of the project for which international assistance is requested.

**Criterion A.6**: The main objective of the project is to equip the potter communities of Mbeere, Tharaka and Tigania with new skills and tools to revitalize their pottering making practices; the request indicates that the communities’ capacities will be strengthened from the organization of potters into groups, participatory consultation processes and the establishment of learning networks; individuals and groups will be trained to conduct regular meetings at community level and document their living heritage with the support of local anthropologists and historians.

**Criterion A.7**: Kenya has been a beneficiary of international assistance four times – twice in the form of preparatory assistance for nomination files for the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, namely on ‘Traditions and practices associated to the Kayas’ (2009–10; US$6,000) and on ‘Rituals and practices associated with Kit Mikayi shrine of the Luo community in Kenya’ (2013–15; US$17,668) and twice in the form of financial assistance for a project entitled ‘Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda’ (2011–14; US$126,580) and a project entitled ‘Documenting and inventorying intangible cultural heritage of the pastoralist Samburu community in northern Kenya: a focus on the region of Mount Kulal biosphere reserve’ (2015-ongoing; US$24,038); work stipulated by contracts related to completed projects was carried out in compliance with UNESCO regulations although the project entitled ‘Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda’, implemented by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and the Arts, experienced significant delays in its implementation. However at the time of writing all activities foreseen were completed and the project is currently in the process of administrative closure. .

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves implementation by national and local partners.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The request indicates a potential multiplier effect in terms of future funding as the project aims to better organize the potters into groups within their respective communities so that efforts can be coordinated for long-term revitalization of their pottery making practices; the visibility activities in schools using the information documented within the communities will also contribute to the creation of a multiplier effect for the project.

1. Decides to approve the international assistance request from Kenya for a project entitled ‘**Promotion of traditional pottery making practices in Eastern Kenya**’ and to grant an amount of US$23,388 to the State Party to this end;
2. Requests the Secretariat to reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on technical details of the assistance paying particular attention to the detailed budget and timetable of activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and release the funds only upon closure of the contract relating to the project ‘Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda’  
   (file no. 00326);
3. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of assistance provided.

DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 1.4

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/1, as well as the international assistance request no. 01216,
3. Takes note that Zambia has requested international assistance for a project entitled ‘**Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community in Luano District of Zambia’**:

Lala people live along the eastern portions of the Luangwa River in Luano District in the central province of Zambia. Among their various cultural practices that include social gatherings, festivals, celebrations and life cycle rituals, proverbs in particular hold a central place in the transmission of community values to the younger generation. Reflecting people’s living heritage and wisdom, Lala proverbs are used in different contexts, from the subject of marriage to dispute settlement among community members. Despite the essential role they play, several factors threaten the viability of the proverbs that are disappearing and their associated cultural practices, affecting community identity and way of life. The proposed project aims to draw up an inventory of the proverbs of the Lala community with a view to safeguarding practices, transmission modes and knowledge associated with them. Implemented by the Department of Arts and Culture of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, activities include identification of custodians and practitioners of proverbs, training on community-based inventorying for local communities, fieldwork and processing and analysis of collected data. The project also plans to disseminate its results and raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding this living heritage among young people through culture clubs in schools and non-formal education settings.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at local level with the aim of drawing up an inventory in accordance with Article 20 (b) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Zambia requested an allocation of US$24,999.90 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01216, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting international assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The project stemmed from a consultative meeting with the chiefdom development committee during which the need to safeguard the proverbs of the Lala community was highlighted. The request assigns a central role to community members, custodians and practitioners as members of the project committee in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project; obtaining community consent is planned as a preliminary phase of the inventorying process.

**Criterion A.2**: The proposed budget is broken down in sufficient detail to demonstrate that the amount of assistance requested is appropriate for the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The overall structure of the project, which includes a series of 10 activities, is carefully conceived and likely to produce the expected results; steps necessary to drawing up a community-based inventory, however, appear to foresee fieldwork and data analysis simultaneously and this seems unrealistic, making the total project duration (nine months including the preparation of the final report) questionable.

**Criterion A.4**: By involving young people particularly through culture clubs in schools, the royal establishment and village leaders of the project committee, transmission of the inventoried oral heritage could continue beyond the end of the project; since the project is presented as a first step of broader cultural mapping, the trained participants will be able to contribute not only to updating the project’s inventory but also to similar initiatives planed in the district, the province or even in the country.

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will share five per cent of the total amount of the project for which international assistance is requested.

**Criterion A.6**: With the goal of raising awareness of Lala community members about the importance of their proverbs and equipping them with effective inventorying skills, the request clearly demonstrates that the proposed activities will build capacities of concerned groups and individuals in identifying and defining intangible cultural heritage elements and other safeguarding measures.

**Criterion A.7**: Zambia has never implemented activities financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves both national partners such as the University of Zambia and local associations.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The request may stimulate financial support for similar activities in other chiefdoms while trained custodians and practitioners will be motivated, as a result of the project, to seek financial resources to do follow up on the project; published materials resulting from the inventorying and documentation activities will be used to stimulate financial contributions for academic research related to intangible cultural heritage.

1. Decides to approve the international assistance request from Zambia for a project entitled ‘**Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community in Luano District of Zambia**’ and to grant an amount of US$24,999.90 to this end;
2. Requests the Secretariat to reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to the detailed budget and timetable of activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, paying particular attention to issues raised in the assessment of criterion A.3;
3. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of assistance provided.

DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 2

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/2,
2. Recalling Articles 7, 29 and 30 of the Convention concerning reports by the States Parties,
3. Further recalling Decision 10.COM 6.a,
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the revised ‘Overview and summaries of the 2015 reports of States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List’ as presented in the Annex of document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/2 Rev[[1]](#footnote-1). and decides to submit it to the General Assembly.

#### DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 3

The Bureau,

1. Having examined Document ITH/16/6.GA/5,
2. Recalling Article 30 of the Convention,
3. Further recalling Decision 10.COM 7.a, adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee at its tenth session Windhoek, Namibia (November 2015),
4. Approves the revised text of the report on the activities of the Committee between the fifth and sixth sessions of the General Assembly included in Document ITH/16/6.GA/5

1. Document ITH/16/11.COM 1.BUR/2 was revised following amendments from Turkey and endorsed by the rest of the Bureau members. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)