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

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

**Sixteenth session**

**Online**

**13 to 18 December 2021**

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF THE SPENDING PLAN FOR**

**THE ‘OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE’**

**1 JANUARY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2021**

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| --- |
| **Summary**The Plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund approved by the General Assembly for the periods 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 and 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 respectively, provided that 20 per cent of the resources be allocated to ‘other functions of the Committee’, as described in Article 7 of the Convention and the Operational Directives. The present document provides an Implementation Report for the period 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2021. |

1. The Plans for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (the ‘Fund’) adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh and eighth sessions respectively, allocated 20 per cent of the total budget for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ (budget line 3 of the Plan) as described in Article 7 of the Convention and in the Operational Directives, for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 (Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8)) and for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)). The present document provides a narrative report for the implementation of the ‘other functions of the Committee’ for both reporting periods:
	1. For the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019, the spending plan for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ was endorsed by the Bureau of the Committee – by delegation of authority from the twelfth session of the Committee (Decision [12.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/7)) – based on a specific proposal prepared by the Secretariat for the use of the funds under this category for the above-mentioned period (Decision [13.COM 2.BUR 3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/3));
	2. For the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, the spending plan for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ was approved by the General Assembly (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)) in line with the new approval procedure put in place by the fourteenth session of the Committee in 2019 (Decision [14.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/7)).
2. As a transitionary measure following the new approval procedure for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ introduced in 2019, the present implementation report exceptionally covers a period of forty-two months, from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2021. An implementation report covering the entire 2020 – 2021 biennium will be presented to the ninth session of the General Assembly in 2022.
3. Continuing the approach of the previous exercise, the approved 2018 – 2019 and 2020 – 2021 spending plans integrated the [performance indicators](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000367155) fully aligned with the 39 C/5 and 40 C/5 respectively for the Major Programme IV Culture, Main Line of Action 2, Expected Result 6 ‘Intangible cultural heritage identified and safeguarded by Member States and communities, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention’. The present document is intended to inform the States Parties on the programme implementation and the way the funds are spent for each of the expected results (ER). Therefore, the tables below provide information on two reporting periods for each expected result, as follows: (a) a final implementation report for the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 as approved in the spending plan adopted in June 2018; and (b) a progress update on the implementation for the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021 as approved in the spending plan adopted in September 2020. In addition, a third table (c) under each expected result provides an analysis of the main challenges encountered and the corrective measures adopted, with a focus on the second reporting period which was impacted heavily by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The resources allocated by the General Assembly to the ‘other functions of the Committee’ (budget line 3) continue to provide unique and irreplaceable support for a number of upstream and cross-cutting actions that have an overall and long-term impact for the implementation of the Convention. During the last two biennia, this budget line was used to support addressing the **core issues of the implementation of the Convention**, as requested by the Committee. In particular, it contributed to the **sound governance of the 2003 Convention** through an accurate and efficient follow-up of all statutory mechanisms of the Convention, transparent access to a wide range of information and better synergies and interactions with various stakeholders, including fostering the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and supporting the online work of the governing bodies and Evaluation Body (Expected Result 1). The funds provided essential support to the **global capacity-building programme** to support States and communities in their implementation of the Convention at the national level through more diverse institutional partnerships, but also through training that is more varied in content and format and that responds to current challenges (Expected Result 2). Furthermore, in the context of **the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**, funds were dedicated to the integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, programmes and policies, to better integrate living heritage into UNESCO's broader programmes and to strengthen its contribution to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular those relating to education, gender, climate change, indigenous peoples and youth (Expected Result 3). Finally, this budget line supported initiatives enhancing **the visibility of the Convention** including through the development of interactive tools and interfaces made available on the Convention’s website and communication actions (Expected Result 4).

**Assessment by Expected Result[[1]](#footnote-1)**

 ‘Other functions of the Committee’ for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget approved for 2018/2019** | **Expenditures at 31/12/2019** | **Exp. Rate %at 31/12/2019** |
| 1,718,184.00 | 1,575,954.48 | 91.7% |

‘Other functions of the Committee’ for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget approved for 2020/2021** | **Expenditures at 30/06/2021** | **Exp. Rate %at 30/06/2021** |
| 1,568,076.00 | 694,654.74 | 44.3% |

**Expected Result 1: Sound governance of the 2003 Convention facilitated by enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services**

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 31/12/2019** |
| 338,512.00 | 316,224.46 | 93.4% |

| **Assessment of results:01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Processes and response time optimized thanks to monitoring interfaces and online workflows*** Online interface allowing accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to submit quadrennial reports on their contributions to the implementation of the Convention made fully operational from the 2019 cycle of accreditation review.
* Incoming and outgoing correspondence integrated into the ‘country pages’ of the internal interfaces.
* New interface developed to present International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 submitted by States Parties and to be examined by the Bureau of the Committee.
 | Accomplished |
| **Clearing-house function of the knowledge management system enhanced*** Open access granted to information about: (1) inscribed elements; (2) accredited NGOs; and (3) projects (downloadable files).
* Data visualization prototype developed as part of the project ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’, which allows for interactive visual navigation through elements inscribed on the Lists.
* Terminology harmonized with the UNESCO Thesaurus for data indexing and efficient access to information by themes and concepts.
 | Accomplished |
| **Interaction with key stakeholders strengthened for improved synergies*** Single sign-on bridge implemented, allowing for an authentication on the information system of the 2003 Convention using the UNESCO Directory.
* Multilingual online bibliographic reference system developed to collect and index worldwide published research references that shed light on the different aspects of the implementation of the 2003 Convention.
 | Accomplished |
| **Overall results framework for the Convention complemented*** Guidance notes for the twenty-six indicators of the Convention’s overall results framework developed and published in three languages (English, French and Spanish) on the dedicated webpage. The periodic reporting Form ICH-10 fully revised and aligned to the framework.
 | Accomplished |
| **Basic Texts of the Convention revised and published*** 2018 edition of the Basic Texts of the Convention designed, edited and published in the six working languages of the General Assembly. This version integrates the amendments to the Operational Directives adopted by the seventh session of the General Assembly and amendments to the Committee’s Rules of Procedure adopted at its twelfth session. For the first time, gender-neutral language is used throughout the versions of the publication in all six languages.
 | Accomplished |

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 30/06/2021** |
| 423,380.00 | 175,459.21 | 41.4% |

| **Assessment of progress:01/01/2020 to 30/06/2021** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Processes and response time optimized thanks to monitoring interfaces and online workflows*** Evaluation Body’s online interface enhanced to facilitate its work through online means, including the possibility to consult each other’s evaluation texts and exchange in between its meetings.
* Online tool developed for enhancing the work of the Committee and General Assembly (online or physical side events, publications, etc.).
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |
| **Importance of safeguarding living heritage for sustainable development demonstrated*** Data indexing and visualizations on the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to the Sustainable Development Goals operational and made available in two languages (English and French) on the Convention’s website.
 | Accomplished |
| **Interaction with key stakeholders strengthened for improved synergies*** Ongoing mapping of the domains of competencies of accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in cooperation with the ICH NGO Forum, based on accreditation requests and reports submitted by NGOs, as well as an online survey.
* Ongoing development of a strategy for enhancing the International Assistance mechanisms, including through the development of a communication toolkit.
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |

1. **Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions (2020/2021)**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| The operations of the Secretariat for the enhancement of monitoring and knowledge management services have been and remains significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a simultaneous urgent need for improved online tools to be made available for the functioning of the Convention’s statutory mechanisms given difficulties for stakeholders to make use of such tools when lockdown measures were in place. | Priority was given during the first half of the biennium to the development and enhancement of online tools and interfaces for the governing bodies of the Convention and the Evaluation Body, so as to ensure that the statutory life of the Convention would be uninterrupted. Other planned actions were postponed to the second half of the biennium. |
| Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of International Assistance requests submitted by States Parties decreased. | The Secretariat is developing communication tools to promote the International Assistance mechanisms, so as to encourage the submission of requests. |

**Expected Result 2: Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme**[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 31/12/2019** |
| 619,150.00 | 559,953.28 | 90.4% |

| **Assessment of results:01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Facilitators’ network strengthened*** One redesigned webpage with online search function and facilitators’ profiles updated.
* Interregional working group for the development of the facilitators’ network established and active.
* One feasibility study undertaken to explore partnerships for sustaining the network and capacity-building programme in the long term with strategic recommendations.
* A second generation of facilitators taken on board in the facilitators’ network through six training activities: while in total 103 facilitators (61% women) were trained from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and Arab States, fifty-five of them were new (54% women).
* Online planning and reporting tool for training activities improved with added functionalities based on feedback from the key user groups: facilitators, UNESCO Field Offices and Headquarters.
 | Accomplished |
| **Content and format of the capacity-building programme further developed to respond to major implementation challenges*** A specific capacity-building approach for periodic reporting under the 2003 Convention developed with the required comprehensive materials for a three-day training in two languages (English and Spanish).
* New training materials developed for a three-day training on disaster risk management and integrated into the capacity-building curriculum in two languages (English and Spanish).
* Two thematic policy information briefs (gender and education) developed for inclusion in the Guidance note for facilitators on providing support to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding-related policy development.
* One online toolbox developed with more than thirty examples to illustrate the relationship between safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.
* Training materials on policy development, gender, sustainable development and pilot inventorying activities translated and available online in two languages (English and French). This included a video on living heritage and gender.
* Technical problems in the material browser tool rectified based on user experiences shared by facilitators (i.e., material downloads, display order of units, multiple language versions).
 | Accomplished |
| **Monitoring of the capacity-building programme ensured and information shared with relevant partners*** Analytical report prepared on implementing the capacity-building programme for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage around the world based on information gathered through the online training workshop planning and reporting tool.
* Knowledge built and shared through the organization, recording and dissemination of a roundtable side event at the thirteenth session of the Committee entitled ‘The Global Facilitators’ Network: How does it support countries in implementing the Convention?’
* Brochure on the capacity-building programme developed and available in two languages (English and French).
 | Accomplished |
| **Lighter ways of sharing safeguarding practices developed*** Online survey conducted about lighter ways of sharing safeguarding practices, resulting in 225 contributions by organizations and institutions in the field of intangible cultural heritage.
 | Accomplished |
| **Networking and partnerships with tertiary educational institutions strengthened*** A total of 29 additional universities engaged in networking through a survey in Africa (following similar activities in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean); survey report disseminated during a side event of the thirteenth session of the Committee and online.
* Partners for the development of an online course on intangible cultural heritage identified (SDG Academy and ICHCAP).
 | Accomplished |

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 30/06/2021** |
| 517,465.00 | 302,236.70 | 58.4% |

| **Assessment of progress:01/01/2020 to 30/06/2021** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Facilitators’ network strengthened*** Network coordination and thematic work supported through two sessions of the interregional working group of the facilitators’ network.
* Seven experienced facilitators from Latin America and the Caribbean trained on the implementation of the overall results framework and periodic reporting in May/June 2021; due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training workshop was redesigned for a fully online format and merged with the training for country focal points for periodic reporting (see below). A training for facilitators from the Arab States was reprogrammed to take place in October 2021 instead of January 2022.
* Twenty-seven facilitators trained in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education and a learning network established. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training workshop was designed for a fully online format for delivery in two time zones. The first online course took place in June 2021 and the second one took place in October 2021.
* A concept note for a webinar series for the global facilitators’ network developed to strengthen methodological and thematic knowledge and exchange. A first session was organized in May 2021 to assess the initial experiences of network members with online facilitation of training for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage with recommendations for future programme development.
 | Accomplished |
| **Content and format of the capacity-building programme further developed to respond to major implementation challenges*** Thirty-four national focal points for periodic reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean trained through a six-week online course on periodic reporting. Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training workshop was redesigned for a fully online format and merged with the training for senior facilitators in the same region.
* Training materials on periodic reporting and policy development translated to be made available in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Initiating the reorientation of the global capacity-building programme to a multi-modal approach (fully online, hybrid, in-person/blended) by developing a strategy and conducting pilot activities for its implementation (ongoing).
* Partnerships with category 2 centres intensified to expand programme outreach. Other organizations working in the field of culture and heritage were identified as potential strategic partners, such as the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).
* Facilitators’ network webpage and materials browser maintained.
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |
| **Networking and partnerships with tertiary educational institutions strengthened*** Thirty-nine additional universities engaged in networking through a survey in the Arab States (following similar activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean).
* Content for a first introductory six-week Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Living heritage and sustainable development created in collaboration with twelve instructors, a lead faculty member and the UNESCO University Chair in Research on Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Autonomous University of Mexico. The production process is ongoing in partnership with ICHCAP and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Academy, which will be hosting the course on its platform.
* Data management and public interface in the field of higher education and research actors improved to strengthen partnerships.
 | Partially accomplished(on-going) |

1. **Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions (2020/2021)**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, the Secretariat was faced in March 2020 with the impossibility of implementing the planned capacity-building activities for the roll-out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism in Latin America and the Caribbean (the first region to report under the new regional cycle of country reporting), since they had been designed for in-person formats and were thus no longer implementable. | To overcome this challenge and ensure timely training on periodic reporting for country focal points in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretariat redesigned the three-day in-person workshop that was to be conducted in four different locations into one six-week online course that brought together the thirty-four country focal points from the region as well as seven senior facilitators from the UNESCO network. Developed in record time with senior experts from the network, the online course ran very successfully as reflected in the unprecedented high rate of over 80% of periodic reports submitted by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. |
| Developing and producing self-paced online courses and initiating a reorientation of the capacity-building programme to a multi-modal delivery approach (with fully online, hybrid and in-person/blended formats) has been challenging, because it requires specific skill sets and competencies, which were new for the Secretariat. | To address this challenge the Living Heritage Entity has undertaken two actions: First, it has developed a strategic partnership with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Academy, which is specialized in creating and curating free massive open online courses (MOOC) and educational materials on sustainable development. It has successfully provided advisory services to the Secretariat for the MOOC development process. Secondly, the Secretariat hired a senior instructional designer to provide guidance and training for developing and implementing the strategic reorientation of the capacity-building programme from an in-person to a multi-modal delivery format, building on the lessons learnt from online facilitation of capacity-building activities during the pandemic. |
| Expanding the number of universities engaged in networking around the topic of integrating intangible cultural heritage into their programmes presented a challenge because the survey designed for this purpose was not always understood by the universities concerned. For example, some universities with programmes in areas that fall into the broad field of intangible cultural heritage were not aware that they would qualify as such. | The Secretariat combined the online survey approach with a person-to-person approach, where a consultant conducted telephone interviews to explain the objectives of the survey in more detail and obtain the required information. Moreover, the Secretariat organized the work in such a way that the different Field Offices in Africa could support data collection for the countries under their responsibility, contacting them, if and as required, starting with southern Africa. |

**Expected Result 3: Integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes supported**

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 31/12/2019** |
| 286,600.00 | 246,505.63 | 86% |

| **Assessment of results:01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Global clearing house for knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation on intangible cultural heritage and education established*** The design, content and tools for the web-based clearinghouse on living heritage and education developed.
* A joint online conference held on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through technical and vocational education and training (TVET)’ with 302 participants from eighty-three countries organized in partnership with UNESCO’s designated centre for TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC.
* Knowledge consolidated through a roundtable discussion held as a side event at the seventh session of the General Assembly on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for quality and relevance in education’.
* A conceptual paper on living heritage and global citizenship education drafted.
* Information sessions held during the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee to share and exchange on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education.
* An intersectoral review and planning meeting on ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’ held with more than fifty colleagues from all regions.
 | Accomplished |
| **Synergies between the 2003 Convention and the work of the UN system in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development strengthened*** Participation of the Secretariat in the eighteenth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2019 and organization of a side event on the Convention.
* Exchanges made with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) regarding draft articles on ‘The Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions’.
 | Accomplished |
| **Framework established for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in emergencies*** One study carried out to map and analyse different methodological approaches used worldwide with a view to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies and mobilizing it as a tool for resilience and recovery.
* One brainstorming meeting held in Beirut (Lebanon) in October 2018 with UN agencies and humanitarian stakeholders based in the country, notably ESCWA, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNIFIL and WHO.
* One expert meeting held to conceptualize the knowledge and experience acquired on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies into methodological guidance for States Parties, leading to the elaboration of operational principles and modalities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in emergencies, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its eighth session.
 | Accomplished |

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 30/06/2021** |
| 203,850.00 | 72,300.42 | 35.5% |

| **Assessment of progress:01/01/2020 to 30/06/2021** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Global clearing house on living heritage and education functioning and partnerships strengthened*** Webpage and resources for the clearing house for knowledge sharing, cooperation and innovation in the field of intangible cultural heritage and education made available in two languages (English and French).
* Online launch of the clearing house with one dissemination event organized in the context of the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in May 2021.
* Experiences of indigenous peoples with safeguarding their living heritage in formal and non-formal education included in the examples of the clearing house.
* Online training course on Living Heritage and Education developed and delivered in French; ongoing development of a similar course in Spanish.
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |
| **Synergies between the 2003 Convention and work of the UN system in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development strengthened*** Contribution prepared for the action plan for the International Decade on Indigenous Languages.
* Partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity strengthened through UNESCO inputs in post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |

1. **Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions (2020/2021)**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| Finding resource persons combining dual competencies in both living heritage and education has been a challenge as this is an innovative and relatively new area of work. | The Secretariat undertook a concentrated effort in close collaboration with UNESCO’s Education Sector to identify and train resource persons with appropriate profiles for working on intangible cultural heritage and education. A first group of twenty-seven resource persons has been identified and was trained in June 2021 through an online training course specifically designed for this purpose. A second course took place in October 2021.  |

**Expected Result 4: Objectives of the Convention promoted through awareness-raising and outreach**

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 31/12/2019** |
| 473,922.00 | 453,271.11 | 95.6% |

| **Assessment of results:01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Communication and outreach tools developed and implemented to promote the objectives of the Convention*** Communication materials (i.e., four youth video clips, one media kit for the press) produced to raise public and media awareness and promote the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. These were widely disseminated during the statutory meetings of the Convention at the seventh session of the General Assembly, during the thirteenth, fourteenth sessions of the Committee and through social media.
* Outreach activities (i.e., dialogue session on International Assistance, roundtable discussion to promote intangible cultural heritage and education, non-governmental organization networking platform) that promote the objectives of the Convention organized during the seventh session of the General Assembly and the thirteenth session of the Committee.
* Launch and pilot demonstration of the web-based interface ‘Dive into Intangible Cultural Heritage’ held during the thirteenth session of the Committee.
 | Accomplished |
| **Additional advisory functions of accredited non-governmental organizations identified through an effective consultation process*** In line with the request of the twelfth session of the Committee (Decision 12.COM 17), reflection on the advisory functions of accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carried out through an electronic consultation in 2018 and a consultation meeting in 2019. Ninety-nine accredited NGOs and seventy-six States participated in the electronic consultation in 2018 and a consultation meeting in 2019, which highlighted the need to map the domains of competence and capacities of accredited NGOs and clarify the nature and purpose of the accreditation system. Outcomes from the reflection with potential advisory functions that could be fulfilled by accredited NGOs were presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly in September 2020.
 | Accomplished |

1. **Implementation report for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate %at 30/06/2021** |
| 423,381.00 | 144,658.41 | 34.2% |

| **Assessment of progress:01/01/2020 to 30/06/2021** | **Assessment of implementation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Communication and outreach tools developed and implemented to promote the objectives of the Convention*** Online platform and survey on ‘Living heritage experiences in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic’ launched in April – May 2020, with more than 200 submissions from practitioners and communities accessible.
* After preliminary articles published in the UNESCO Culture & COVID-19 tracker and the World Heritage Review, as well as a ResiliArt online dialogue on the impact of the pandemic on living heritage in the margins of the eighth session of the General Assembly, a final report titled ‘Living Heritage in the face of COVID-19’ was published in May 2021 in two languages (English and French), with key recommendations for building back better.
* One thematic exhibition – a reproduction of a sound exhibition of Indigenous Languages – installed at UNESCO Headquarters.
* Promotion of sustainable development goal visualization (animations in development for a display on screens at UNESCO Headquarters) for end 2021/beginning 2022.
* Ongoing revamp of the website (design and organization reviewed, in order to align it with the new UNESCO graphic charter) to be released in the first semester 2022.
* A thematic brochure (PDF) on living heritage and emergencies is being elaborated for a release in December 2021.
* Knowledge management system optimised to better face waves of online connections during important statutory events and deadlines.
 | Partially accomplished (on-going) |

1. **Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions (2020/2021)**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| COVID-19 restrictions prevented the organization of most physical events during the reporting period. Some of the activities scheduled proved not to be pertinent (exhibitions, side events) in the context and could not be converted to an online format. | These activities will be rescheduled in the future when the conditions allow for the biggest possible impact and a significant audience. |
| The implementation of awareness and outreach activities suffered from too limited human resources. | Future programming activities should better factor in the human resources dimension to ensure an efficient implementation. |

1. . All figures in the tables are extracted from the Financial reports (as of 31 December 2019 for the 2018/2019 biennium and as of 30 June 2021 for the 2020/2021 biennium) issued by UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning – Grants Management Section. All figures in the tables are expressed in US dollars. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . During the 2018 – 2019 biennium, Expected Result 2 was entitled ‘Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme and guidance on safeguarding measures and good practices’. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)