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

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

**Eighteenth session**

**Kasane, Republic of Botswana**

**4 to 9 December 2023**

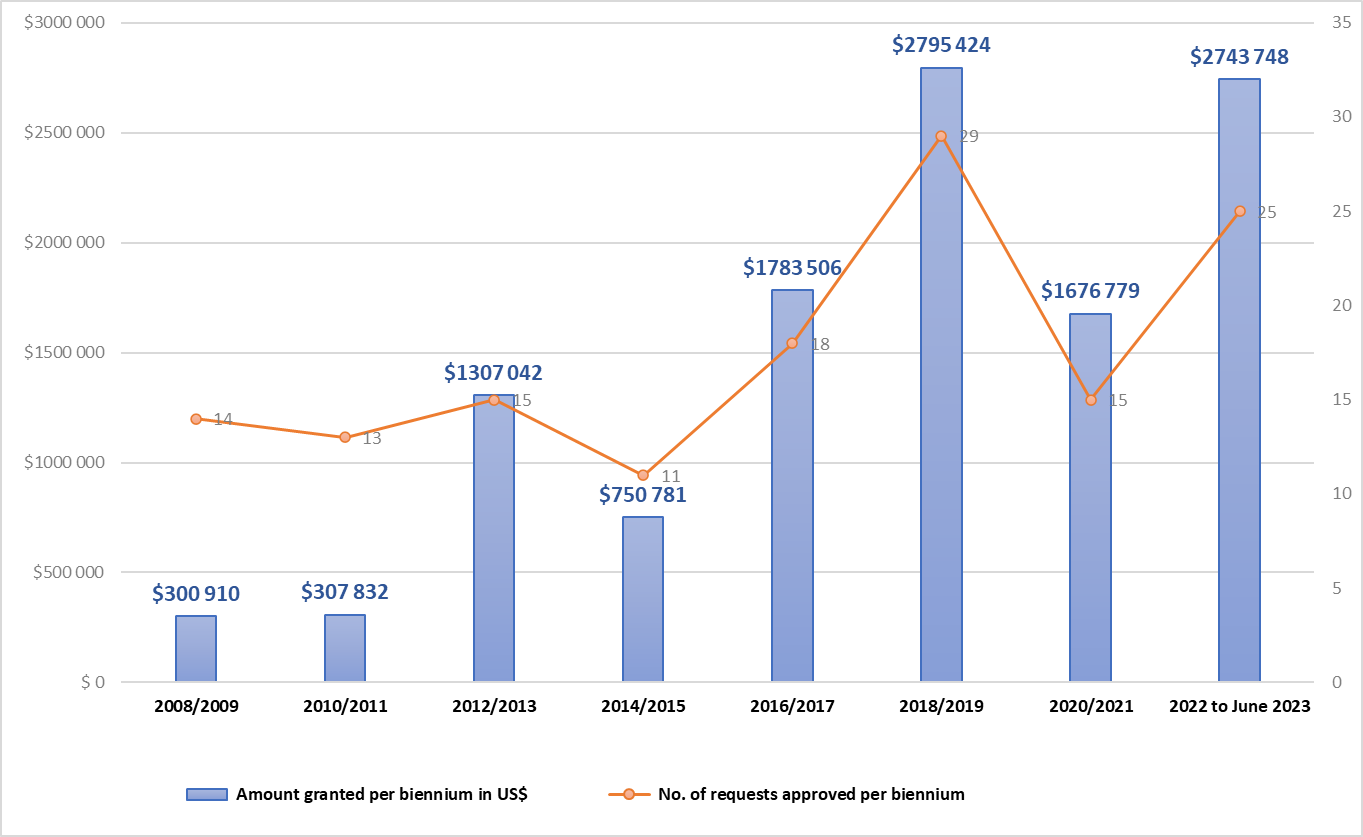
**Item 10 of the provisional agenda:**

**Report on International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and proposal for related amendments to the Operational Directives**

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| **Summary**  With reference to Article 24.3 of the Convention, this document presents the reports submitted by beneficiary States Parties on the use made of the International Assistance provided (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), together with an overview of the implementation of the mechanisms. It also proposes amendments to the Operational Directives to enlarge the scope of preparatory assistance.  **Decision required:** paragraph 15 |

**Introduction**

1. International Assistance is a crucial mechanism of international cooperation that supports national safeguarding efforts. Since the establishment of the International Assistance mechanism in 2008, 72 States Parties have been granted financial assistance from the Fund for a total amount of US$11.6 million in support of 140 projects (as of 30 June 2023).
2. Article 24.3 of the Convention provides that ‘[t]he beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage’. Such financial International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (hereafter, ‘the Fund’) is described in Chapter V of the Convention and Chapters I.4 and I.14 of the Operational Directives.
3. This document presents the reports received from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 with an overview of the implementation of International Assistance under the reporting period ([Part A](#Part_A) and Annexes [I](#Annex1) and [II](#Annex2)) and a short update on the implementation of the Strategy for the monitoring, evaluation and lessons learnt for International Assistance projects ([Part B](#Part_B)). The document also proposes amendments to the Operational Directives to facilitate access to preparatory assistance ([Part C](#C) and [Annex III](#annex3)).
4. Overview of the implementation of International Assistance
5. This reporting period saw a significantly accelerated pace for the implementation of the mechanism compared to the previous reporting period, during which forty-two projects were active for a total amount of US$4,904,606. The graph below demonstrates that the number of requests presented and the assistance granted under the current period returned to the level seen for the biennium before the COVID-19 pandemic (2018-2019).



**Figure 1:** Number of requests approved by the Committee and its Bureau and amounts of assistance allocated per biennium.

1. During the reporting period, fifty-two projects[[1]](#footnote-1) supported with International Assistance were active[[2]](#footnote-2) in forty-nine States Parties, for a total amount of US$5,812,029.
   1. **Reports received**: Twenty-six reports were submitted by beneficiary States, including for ten projects completed (marked ‘final report’) during the reporting period (Annex I)[[3]](#footnote-3). The delays experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic have been largely resolved.
   2. **Forthcoming reports**: Twenty-six other projects are ‘active’ although no report was submitted (Annex II).
2. At the same time, the implementation of the mechanism during the reporting period was characterized by the following:
3. Thirty-one new international Assistance requests were received by the Secretariat.
4. Technical assistance was provided to support the preparation of four International Assistance requests, all of which were approved by the Bureau. Six new requests for technical assistance were received.
5. All twenty International Assistance requests presented were approved, for a total amount of US$2,313,442, either by the Committee (two projects for a total amount of US$396,236) or by the Bureau (eighteen projects for a total amount of US$1,917,206). They include seven projects in Africa and five in Small Island Developing States (‘SIDS’). Twelve States Parties were granted assistance for the first time. UNESCO Field Offices were entrusted with implementing six projects under the ‘service’ modality.
6. The Secretariat processed thirty-one new requests as follows: i) twenty-eight requests for an amount up to US$100,000 for examination by the Bureau; ii) two requests for an amount greater than US$100,000 for examination by the Committee; and iii) one request for International Assistance combined with a nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List for examination by the Committee.
7. The geographical scope of the mechanism has expanded, with forty-nine beneficiary States Parties including eleven SIDS and seventeen in the Africa region. While all the Electoral Groups are represented except for Electoral Group I (Figure 1), 36 per cent of the active projects benefit States Parties from Electoral Group V(a), representing US$2.1 million of the amount of assistance granted, in line with UNESCO’s Global Priority Africa. The regional distributions for the other groups can be seen below.

**Figure 2**. Analysis by Electoral Group of active projects between July 2022 and June 2023.

1. With reference to Article 20 of the Convention, International Assistance is granted for projects with various purposes. Such projects covered a wide range of programmes, projects and activities dedicated to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, such as community-based inventorying, awareness-raising or specific activities such as safeguarding living heritage in emergencies.

**Figure 3**: Thematic analysis of the projects active between July 2022 and June 2023.

* 1. Capacity-building remained the most common intervention modality for International Assistance, covering 57 percent of the projects. Nearly one third of these projects were aimed at building the capacities of communities and safeguarding professionals. A large portion of the projects focused on the ‘preparation of inventories’ or ‘community-based inventories’, in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention. The Convention’s [capacity-building materials](https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building-materials) as well as experts from Global Network of Facilitators were made available to States Parties for this purpose.
  2. Safeguarding living heritage: Twelve projects were undertaken to: i) develop safeguarding plans and strategies with the participation of the communities concerned for elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List; ii) implement training activities and/or the transmission of knowledge and practices related to the element; and iii) improve safeguarding policies and strategies.
  3. Intangible cultural heritage in education: Five projects had a clear focus on safeguarding heritage in formal and non-formal education. These projects mainly focus on training professionals in the field of living heritage and/or on developing teaching materials and courses for the inclusion of intangible cultural heritage in education programmes. At the same time, International Assistance was also provided to support activities, or a component, aimed at raising awareness on the important role of living heritage in formal and non-formal education.
  4. Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies: The emergency International Assistance modality provided support to States Parties for the implementation of safeguarding activities and measures when living heritage is threatened. Four projects were submitted and approved during the first half of the year. Despite their different geographical regions and political contexts, these ongoing projects all contribute to ensuring respect for and the viability of the intangible cultural heritage of vulnerable populations in emergency situations (see below).

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| **Living heritage safeguarding in emergency situations**   * Due to the conflicts in northern Ethiopia, traditional church schools in Lalibela and the surrounding areas have been temporarily closed. The project entitled [‘Emergency response to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Lalibela World Heritage property and the surrounding area endangered by conflict’](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/emergency-response-to-safeguard-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-lalibela-world-heritage-property-and-the-surrounding-area-endangered-by-conflict-02045) (No. 02045), implemented in Ethiopia, aims to contribute to the revival of these schools through technical and financial support, training initiatives and other activities. It also seeks to contribute to the sustainability of the church schools, which are vital for the survival of religious practices and the conservation of World Heritage property. * Following the security crisis in Haiti, many bearers of the art of metal cutting were displaced from their places of living and work. This resulted in a loss both of skills and of the distribution network. The project entitled [‘Supporting the community of artists and artisans of the village of Noailles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in the context of the security crisis and for resilience in Haiti’](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/supporting-the-community-of-artists-and-artisans-of-the-village-of-noailles-to-safeguard-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-metal-cutting-in-the-context-of-the-security-crisis-and-for-resilience-in-haiti-02049) (No. 02049) is aimed at providing metal cutters from Noailles with the conditions and means necessary to ensure the continuity and sustainability of their intangible cultural heritage. * A community-based needs assessment was undertaken in 2022, at the initiative of the Secretariat, among Ukrainian communities displaced in five neighbouring countries. Following this assessment, International Assistance was granted for the following two projects which aim to safeguard the living heritage of Ukrainian communities in Romania and Slovakia and to support their resilience and well-being: * The project [‘Community-based teaching and learning of Ukraine’s living heritage in Romania](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-teaching-and-learning-of-ukraine-s-living-heritage-in-romania-02074)’ (No. 02074); * The project ‘[To get together – Enhancement of the capacities of displaced communities from Ukraine living in Slovakia through living heritage’](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/to-get-together-enhancement-of-the-capacities-of-displaced-communities-from-ukraine-living-in-slovakia-through-living-heritage-02051) (No. 02051). |

1. Improving the mechanism
2. The Secretariat continues to develop the tools needed to implement the Strategy with a view to enhancing the mechanism through an evaluation and monitoring system, as presented to the seventeenth session of the Committee (Decision [17.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/11) and document [LHE/22/17.COM/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-11-EN.docx)). To assess the results of each individual project, the Secretariat planned to organize independent evaluation and monitoring missions. To this end, a call of interest was published on UNESCO’s website to establish a roster of consultants with experience in assessing projects in the field of culture. More than one hundred applications were received by the end of August 2023. Experts from all regions with diverse profiles and experiences expressed their wish to be part of the roster. In parallel, six terminated projects, one per region, were selected for the initial evaluation exercise. The Secretariat informed the States Parties concerned through an official letter in June 2023. The launch of the field missions is expected to take place in early 2024.
3. Furthermore, in line with Recommendation 5 of the [2021 IOS Evaluation](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10_Rev.-EN.pdf), the Secretariat undertook outreach activities to increase the visibility of the International Assistance mechanism, which included a series of webinars for each of the regions in early 2023. On these occasions, a [Toolkit](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/53724-EN.pdf) for requesting International Assistance prepared by the Secretariat was widely disseminated.
4. Proposal for amendments to the Operational Directives related to International Assistance
5. Through the global reflection on the listing mechanisms, which was concluded by the nineth session of the General Assembly in July 2022, the scope of preparatory assistance (paragraph 21 of the Operational Directive) was enlarged to include preparatory assistance for the preparation of ‘(c) requests for the transfer of an element from one List to another, and (d) nomination files on an extended or reduced basis of already inscribed elements’ (Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9)). These additions complemented the preparatory assistance which had already been provided to support the preparation of a) nomination files to the Urgent Safeguarding List; and b) proposals of programmes, projects, and activities for selection in the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.
6. The seventeenth session of the Committee considered enlarging the scope of preparatory assistance once again and requested that the Secretariat ‘elaborate a proposal to the Operational Directives in order to make possible for Member States with no previous elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to request International Assistance for the preparations of their first nomination thereon’ (Decision [17.COM 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/7)). This proposal was made with reference to Article 20 (d) of the Convention, which foresees that International Assistance may be granted for ‘any other purpose the Committee may deem necessary’.
7. It is understood that preparatory assistance would be open to States with no national element inscribed on the Representative List, regardless of whether or not they have any multinational inscribed elements. As per the practice of the Convention, priority may be given to those States which receive Official Development Assistance; at the same time, requests from States Parties in Electoral Group I (two States without any national inscribed elements) would not be treated as a priority. With the current inscription status, a total of forty-seven Sates could benefit from preparatory assistance, with the geographical breakdown as below (not including States Parties with nominations under the 2023 cycle pending decisions by the present session of the Committee).

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| E.G. I | E.G. II | E.G. III | E.G. IV | E.G. V(a) | E.G. V(b) |
| 2 | 0 | 12 | 15 | 19 | 1 |
| Total: 47 States | | | | | |

1. The proposed revisions to paragraph 21 of the Operational Directives are presented in Annex III for the attention of the Committee, which may wish to recommend that the tenth session of the General Assembly in mid-2024 revise the Operational Directives accordingly. Needless to say, the proposal is in line with the spirt of the Convention, which aims to ensure equitable geographical representation in all aspects of its implementation, particularly for the listing mechanisms. The submission deadline and the process of examination, as described in Section I.15 of the Operational Directives, will remain unchanged, as will the amount requested, which usually ranges between US$5,000 and US$10,000. Form ICH-05 would be revised to reflect the new possibility.
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 18.COM 10

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/23/18.COM/10 and its annexes,
2. Recalling Articles 20(d) and 24.3 of the Convention,
3. Further recalling Resolution [9.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/9) as well as Decisions [17.COM 6.d](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/6.d) and [17.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/10),
4. Notes with satisfaction that States Parties from Electoral Group V(a) continue to be the main beneficiaries of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, in accordance with Global Priority Africa, and welcomes the increasing number of requests submitted by Small Island Developing States;
5. Congratulates the States Parties that have been granted International Assistance for the first time, and encourages States that have never received it to consider this mechanism of assistance in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories;
6. Thanks the beneficiary States for their timely submission of final or progress reports for projects benefiting from International Assistance under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and requests that beneficiary States with projects whose implementation has been delayed take corrective measures to ensure the timely implementation of the projects and to respect their reporting obligations;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the variety of activities and scopes of the projects financed by the Fund as well as the impact that the assistance has had on the beneficiary States in terms of building their safeguarding capacities, and encourages these States to continue to ensure the sustainability and enhanced results of the projects;
8. Appreciates the work of the Secretariat in supporting the States Parties in the implementation and follow-up of International Assistance projects, and invites the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to strengthen, monitor and evaluate the mechanism;
9. Further encourages States Parties to continue to take advantage of the technical assistance arranged by the Secretariat, which is intended to improve the quality of International Assistance requests, in particular for States Parties facing recurring difficulties in revising requests referred by the Bureau;
10. Expresses its support for the continuous use of the modality for the provision of services, as provided by Article 21 (a) to (f) and as a complementary and alternative modality to the provision of grants;
11. Further notes the proposal to enlarge the scope of preparatory assistance in order to enable States Parties without a national inscribed element to apply to the Fund for assistance with preparing their first national nomination file to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and recommends that the General Assembly amend the Operational Directives, as annexed to this decision.

**Annex I: Received reports**

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| **Beneficiary State** | **Project** | **Decision making Body / Amount granted (US$)** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| Albania | Community based Inventory of ICH in Albania with a view to safeguarding and transmitting to future generations (No. 01253) | [13.COM 10.d](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/13.COM/10.D?dec=decisions&ref_decision=13.COM)  [14.COM 2.BUR.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/14.COM%202.BUR/4)  213,260 | 20/02/2020  30/10/2022 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=73019)  [Dedicated website](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventory-of-ich-in-albania-with-a-view-to-safeguarding-and-transmitting-to-future-generations-01253) |
| Armenia | Community-Based inventory, documenting and safeguarding folklore of the Syunik region of Armenia (No. 01864) | [16COM 3.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.com%203.bur/3.1)  70,855 | 04/04/2022  30/04/2024 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=69966)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventory-documenting-and-safeguarding-folklore-of-the-syunik-region-of-armenia-01864) |
| Belarus | Spring rite of Juraŭski Karahod (No. 01538) | [14.COM 10.a.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/10.a.5)  87,761 | 23/12/2020  31/12/2023 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72671)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/spring-rite-of-juraski-karahod-international-assistance-01538) |
| Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama | Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba (No. 02010) | [17.COM 5.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM%205.BUR/3.1)  99,986 | 06/02/2023  17/03/2024 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72382)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-for-community-leaders-and-public-managers-to-safeguard-the-living-heritage-of-afro-descendant-communities-in-the-sica-region-and-cuba-02010) |
| Colombia | Between the Amazon and the Andes: safeguarding and transmission of the Traditional knowledge and techniques associated with Pasto Varnish mopa-mopa of the Putumayo and Nariño departments of Colombia (No. 01926) | [17.COM 1.BUR 3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%201.BUR/3)  98,925 | 03/08/2022  30/04/2024 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=69972)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/between-the-amazon-and-the-andes-safeguarding-and-transmission-of-the-traditional-knowledge-and-techniques-associated-with-pasto-varnish-mopa-mopa-of-the-putumayo-and-nario-departments-of-colombia-01926) |
| Cuba | Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantánamo (No. 01213) | [12.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/12.COM%202.BUR/4.2)  65,745 | 01/03/2018  28/02/2022 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=69976)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/identification-definition-and-inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-cuban-province-of-guantanamo-01213) |
| Djibouti | Xeedho (No. 01843) | [16.COM 8.a.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.a.5)  116,450 | 23/09/2022  31/01/2025 | Progress report due in July 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/xeedho-01843) |
| Egypt | Inventory of intangible culture of craftsmanship in the core of Historic Cairo (No. 01633) | [15.COM 2.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%202.BUR/3.3)  86,950 | 21/08/2021  15/09/2023 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=68977)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-of-intangible-culture-of-craftsmanship-in-the-core-of-historic-cairo-01633) |
| Grenada | ‘Proud of my Heritage’: transmission and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Grenada through inventorying and education initiatives (No. 01627) | [15.COM 3.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%203.BUR/3.1)  99,862 | 21/09/2021  01/05/2023 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=73032)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/-proud-of-my-heritage-transmission-and-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-grenada-through-inventorying-and-education-initiatives-01627) |
| Haiti | Programme in support of the education system for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage (PASS-TPCI) (No. 01442) | [13.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.2)  98,970 | 17/08/2018  16/08/2021 | Final report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=67777)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/programme-in-support-of-the-education-system-for-the-transmission-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-pass-tpci-01442) |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through creation of community-based inventory for Luang Prabang (No. 01448) | [14.COM 2.BUR 5.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%202.BUR/5.3)  99,886 | 04/11/2019  03/04/2023 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72704)  [Dedicated website](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-creation-of-community-based-inventory-for-luang-prabang-01448) |
| Mauritania | National Oral Traditions (NOT), additional collection component (No. 01528) | [14.COM 2.BUR 5.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/14.COM%202.BUR/5.4)  90,562 | 03/10/2020  10/12/2022 | Final report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72720)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/national-oral-traditions-not-additional-collection-component-01528) |
| Mauritania | Safeguarding the Oulad Mbarek epic (No. 01628) | [16.COM 3.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%203.BUR/3.3)  88,375 | 08/08/2022  31/12/2023 | Progress report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72752)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-the-oulad-mbarek-epic-01628) |
| Malawi | Safeguarding ICH in Malawi through non-formal learning and transmission (No. 01530) | [14.COM 1.BUR 3.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/14.COM%201.BUR/3.4)  91,860 | 02/07/2019  28/02/2022 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=73068)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-ich-in-malawi-through-non-formal-learning-and-transmission-01530) |
| Mongolia | Transmitting and stabilizing the folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers – circular breathing – through the old repertoire to the new generations (No. 01445) | [13.COM 3.BUR 4.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.5)  99,946 | 29/01/2019  29/01/2022 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=73033)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/transmitting-and-stabilizing-the-folk-long-song-performance-technique-of-limbe-performers-circular-breathing-through-the-old-repertoire-to-the-new-generations-01445) |
| Mongolia | Sustaining and transmitting Mongol biyelgee (No. 01500) | [16.COM 8.d](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.d.)  172,095 | 22/09/2022  18/09/2025 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=71892)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/sustaining-and-transmitting-mongol-biyelgee-01500) |
| Mozambique | Pilot project to create a local ICH management committee and first steps towards a national strategy for decentralized ICH management (No. 01523) | [14.COM 2.BUR 5.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%202.BUR/5.5)  91,430 | 20/02/2020  18/08/2022 | Final report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=69488)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/pilot-project-to-create-a-local-ich-management-committee-and-first-steps-towards-a-national-strategy-for-decentralized-ich-management-01523) |
| Namibia | Safeguarding of Okuruuo through community-based capacity building, inventorying and documentation interventions in Namibia (No. 01536) | [14.COM 4.BUR](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54859) 4.2  100,000 | 21/09/2020  20/09/2024 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72251)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-okuruuo-through-community-based-capacity-building-inventorying-and-documentation-interventions-in-namibia-01536) |
| Namibia | Aixan/Gana/Ob#ANS TSI //Khasigu, ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills (No. 01639) | [15.COM 8.a.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/15.COM/8.a.4)  99,329 | 20/04/2022  17/04/2025 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72247)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/aixan-gana-obans-tsi-khasigu-ancestral-musical-sound-knowledge-and-skills-international-assistance-01639) |
| Pakistan | Community-based inventorying and capacity building of indigenous communities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces (No. 01809) | [16.COM 2.BUR](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%202.BUR/3.2) 3.2  99,990 | 15/12/2021  30/09/2023 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=70072)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventorying-and-capacity-building-of-indigenous-communities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-sindh-and-khyber-pakhtunkhwa-provinces-01809) |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | Safeguarding Saint Kitts and Nevis Intangible Cultural Heritage: developing a National Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy (No. 01930) | [17.COM 4.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%204.BUR/3.3)  91,252 | 23/12/2022  31/12/2024 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72735)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-saint-kitts-and-nevis-intangible-cultural-heritage-developing-a-national-intangible-cultural-heritage-policy-01930) |
| Thailand | Field School for capacity-building in safeguarding living heritage of ethnic communities in Thailand (No. 2006) | [17.COM 5.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%205.BUR/3.3)  100,000 | 15/05/2023  15/05/2025 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=72740)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/field-school-for-capacity-building-in-safeguarding-living-heritage-of-ethnic-communities-in-thailand-02006) |
| Timor-Leste | Tais, traditional textile (No. 01842) | [16.COM 8.a.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.a.6)  265,895 | 16/05/2022  15/05/2025 | Progress report 2  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=71688)  Progress report 1  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=71685)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/tais-traditional-textile-01842) |
| Tonga | Community-based inventorying and transmission of intangible cultural heritage in the island of Tongatapu in Tonga (No. 01430) | [13.COM 2.BUR 4.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.6)  85,913 | 22/03/2019  11/11/2022 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=73030)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventorying-and-transmission-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-island-of-tongatapu-in-tonga-01430) |
| Uruguay | The Bandoneon: sound of Tango (No. 01634) | [15.COM 2.BUR 3.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%202.BUR/3.6)  99,764 | 01/04/2021  25/10/2023 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=67668)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/the-bandoneon-sound-of-tango-01634) |
| Zambia | Inventorying of Kuyabila of the Tonga ethnic group of Zambia (No. 01621) | [16.COM 2.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%202.BUR/3.3)  83,790 | 21/12/2021  31/12/2023 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=69985)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-of-kuyabila-of-the-tonga-ethnic-group-of-zambia-01621) |

**Annex II: Forthcoming reports**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Beneficiary State** | **Project** | **Decision making Body / Amount granted (US$)** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| Albania | Xhubleta, skills, craftsmanship and forms of usage (No. 01948) | [17.COM 7.a.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/7.a.4)  91,092 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/xhubleta-skills-craftmanship-and-forms-of-usage-01948) |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Strengthening capacities for the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Antigua and Barbuda (No. 01624) | [15.COM 2.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%25202.BUR/3.1)  97,754 | 10/03/2022  29/09/2023 | Progress report due in December 2022  Final report due in September 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-capacities-for-the-implementation-of-the-2003-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-antigua-and-barbuda-01624) |
| The Bahamas | Community-based inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (No. 02004) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/4.1)  99,363 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventorying-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-commonwealth-of-the-bahamas-02004?cote_new=02004) |
| Botswana | Sustaining Seperu folk dance and associated practices (No. 02044) | [18.COM 1.BUR 4.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%201.BUR/4.1)  94,447 | 02/08/2023  28/02/2025 | Progress report due in January 2024  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/sustaining-seperu-folk-dance-and-associated-practices-02044) |
| Burkina Faso | Capacity building for stakeholders involved in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso (No. 01501) | [14.COM 10.D](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM/10.D)  305,236 | 10/07/2023  31/07/2025 | Progress report due in December 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-for-stakeholders-involved-in-safeguarding-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-burkina-faso-01501) |
| Burundi | Updating of the 2009 inventory of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in Burundi with the participation of the communities (No. 01428) | [15.COM 2.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/15.COM%202.BUR/3.2)  96,052 | 05/05/2021  17/07/2023 | Final report due in July 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/updating-of-the-2009-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-ich-in-burundi-with-the-participation-of-the-communities-01428) |
| Central African Republic | Pilot inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of the communities of the Lobaye forest prefecture (No. 01931) | [18.COM 1.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%201.BUR/4.2)  99,997 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/pilot-inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-communities-of-the-lobaye-forest-prefecture-01931) |
| Chad | Pilot inventory of intangible cultural heritage in six provinces of Chad (No. 01623) | [17.COM 4.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%204.BUR/3.1)  99,610 | 02/08/2023  31/12/2024 | Progress report due in February 2024  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/pilot-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-six-provinces-of-chad-01623) |
| Cook Islands | Documentation and inventory of peu karioi (performing arts) in the Cook Islands (No. 01635) | [16.COM 2.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%25202.BUR/3.1)  99,983 | 08/10/2021  31/12/2023 | Progress report due in August 2022  Final report due in December 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/documentation-and-inventory-of-peu-karioi-performing-arts-in-the-cook-islands-01635) |
| Democratic People’s Republic of Korea | Capacity building on traditional Koryo celadon making practice (No. 01619) | [14.COM 4.BUR 4.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/14.COM%204.BUR/4.1)  41,767 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-on-traditional-koryo-celadon-making-practice-01619) |
| Dominican Republic | Strengthening the capacities of La Cofradía del Espíritu Santo de Los Congos de Villa Mella and El Teatro Cocolo Danzante de Los Guloyas de San Pedro to safeguard their heritage (No. 02003) | [17.COM 4.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%25204.BUR/3.2)  98,752 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-the-capacities-of-la-cofrada-del-espritu-santo-de-los-congos-de-villa-mella-and-el-teatro-cocolo-danzante-de-los-guloyas-de-san-pedro-to-safeguard-their-heritage-02003) |
| Ethiopia | Emergency response to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Lalibela, World Heritage property, and the surrounding area endangered by conflict (No. 02045) | [18.COM 1.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%201.BUR/3.1)  150,000 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/emergency-response-to-safeguard-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-lalibela-world-heritage-property-and-the-surrounding-area-endangered-by-conflict-02045) |
| Haiti | Supporting the community of artists and artisans of the village of Noailles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of metal cutting in the context of the security crisis and for resilience in Haiti (No. 02049) | [18.COM 2.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/3.1)  280,092 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/supporting-the-community-of-artists-and-artisans-of-the-village-of-noailles-to-safeguard-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-metal-cutting-in-the-context-of-the-security-crisis-and-for-resilience-in-haiti-02049) |
| Kyrgyzstan | Digital journey to intangible cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan (No. 02007) | [17.COM 5.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%205.BUR/3.2)  99,963 | 31/03/2023  30/09/2025 | Progress report due in August 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/digital-journey-to-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-kyrgyzstan-02007) |
| Malawi | Safeguarding of ludodiversity in Malawi through formal and non-formal education (No. 01897) | [17.COM 7.D](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/17.COM/7.D)  305,144 | 26/06/2023  15/07/2026 | Progress report due in January 2024  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-ludodiversity-in-malawi-through-formal-and-non-formal-education-01897) |
| Mauritania | Safeguarding and inventories of children’s tales and narratives in Mauritania (No. 02046) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/4.2)  87,460 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-inventories-of-children-s-tales-and-narratives-in-mauritania-02046) |
| Mongolia | Nomadic Mongolia festival (No. 02145)[[4]](#footnote-4) | [18.COM 2.BUR 5.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/5.1)  8,340 | 04/09/2023  15/04/2024 | Final report due in April 2024  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/nomadic-mongolia-festival-02145) |
| Nicaragua | Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of traditional and religious festivities in the municipalities of Bluefields, Diriamba, León, El Viejo and Masaya (No. 02042) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%202.BUR/4.3)  100,000 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-traditional-and-religious-festivities-in-the-municipalities-of-bluefields-diriamba-leon-el-viejo-and-masaya-02042?cote_new=02042) |
| Peru | Strengthening and promotion of the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and meanings related to the production of traditional pottery in Checca Pupuja, Puno (No. 02078) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/4.4)  99,275 | 01/09/2023  28/02/2025 | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-and-promotion-of-the-intergenerational-transmission-of-knowledge-and-meanings-related-to-the-production-of-traditional-pottery-in-checca-pupuja-puno-02078) |
| Romania | Community-based teaching and learning of Ukraine’s living heritage in Romania (No. 02074) | [18.COM 1.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%201.BUR/3.2)  99,886 | 11/07/2023  10/10/2024 | Progress report due in November 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-teaching-and-learning-of-ukraines-living-heritage-in-romania-02074) |
| Rwanda | Elaboration of an inventory of national intangible cultural heritage (No. 02050) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM%202.BUR/4.5)  99,230 |  | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/elaboration-of-an-inventory-of-national-intangible-cultural-heritage-02050) |
| Slovakia | To get together - Enhancement of the capacities of displaced communities from Ukraine living in Slovakia through living heritage (No. 02051) | [18.COM 1.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%201.BUR/3.3)  99,914 | 15/06/2023  31/03/2025 | Progress report due in November 2023  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/to-get-together-enhancement-of-the-capacities-of-displaced-communities-from-ukraine-living-in-slovakia-through-living-heritage-02051) |
| South Sudan | Development of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan (No. 01535) | [15.COM 2.BUR 3.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%202.BUR/3.5)  99,474 | 20/04/2022  30/05/2025 | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/development-of-an-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-south-sudan-01535) |
| Togo | Identification, capacity-building, safeguarding and promotion of traditional dances of Togo as a vector of sustainable cultural development (No. 02072) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/4.6)  99,876 | 02/08/2023  15/09/2025 | Progress report due in March 2024  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/identification-capacity-building-safeguarding-and-promotion-of-traditional-dances-of-togo-as-a-vector-of-sustainable-cultural-development-02072) |
| Uzbekistan | Urgent safeguarding of the making of traditional musical instrument Kobyz and its tradition of Zhyrau performance (No. 02146) | [18.COM 2.BUR 4.7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/4.7)  99,903 | 23/08/2023  28/02/2025 | Project yet to start  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/urgent-safeguarding-of-the-making-of-traditional-musical-instrument-kobyz-and-its-tradition-of-zhyrau-performance-02146?cote_new=02146) |
| Zimbabwe | Developing and testing intangible cultural heritage (ICH) curriculum materials for primary schools teacher training colleges in Zimbabwe (No. 01616) | [15.COM 3.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/fr/decisions-bureau/15.COM%203.BUR/3.3)  60,595 | 05/05/2021  15/11/2022 | Final report due in November 2022  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/developing-and-testing-intangible-cultural-heritage-ich-curriculum-materials-for-primary-schools-teacher-training-colleges-in-zimbabwe-01616) |

**ANNEX III**

**Proposed amendments to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Operational Directives (2022 edition)** | | **Proposed amendment** | |
| **I.7** | **Submission of files** | **I.7** | [No change.] |
| 21. | States Parties may request preparatory assistance, in consultation with communities, groups and where appropriate, individuals concerned, for the elaboration of:  (a) nomination files to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding,  (b) proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention,  (c) requests for the transfer of an element from one List to another, and  (d) nomination files on an extended or reduced basis of already inscribed elements. | 21. | States Parties may request preparatory assistance, in consultation with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals concerned, for the elaboration of:   1. nomination files to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, 2. nomination files to the Representative List (only for States Parties with no national elements already inscribed on this List), 3. proposals of programmes, projects and activities that best reflect the principles and objectives of the Convention, 4. requests for the transfer of an element from one List to another, and 5. nomination files on an extended or reduced basis of already inscribed elements. |

1. . The details of the projects benefiting from International Assistance can be consulted on the dedicated [web page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/project) of the Convention. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Projects supported by International Assistance that were approved by the Committee or the Bureau and that were initiated, implemented, or terminated during the reporting period are considered as active. This includes projects approved but whose contracts were not established by 30 June 2023 and projects pending the administrative closure of the contract, which was delayed to a date later than 1 July 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . The period covered by each report varies from one report to the next, depending on the specific dates of each project, as agreed upon between the beneficiary State(s) and UNESCO when the contract governing the assistance is established. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Preparatory Assistance [↑](#footnote-ref-4)