**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**

**General information**

*The information presented in this document is provided by the host country, unless otherwise stated.*

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1. EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Hosted by the Republic of Botswana, the eighteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will be held at the Wild View Resort in Kasane, **from 4 December to 9 December 2023**.

All relevant information is also available at the following address: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/18com>.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is composed of twenty-four representatives of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention.

**The current composition of the Committee is:**

* Electoral Group I (North America and Western Europe): Germany, Sweden, Switzerland.
* Electoral Group II (Eastern Europe): Czechia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan.
* Electoral Group III (Latin America and the Caribbean): Brazil, Panama, Paraguay, Peru.
* Electoral Group IV (Asia and the Pacific): Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam.
* Electoral Group V(a) (Africa): Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Rwanda.
* Electoral Group V(b) (Arab States): Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia.

The elected members of the **Bureau of the eighteenth session of the Committee** are:

Chairperson:
**H.E. Mr Mustaq Moorad**

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Botswana to UNESCO, Botswana*

Vice-Chairpersons:
**Switzerland, Slovakia, Peru, Bangladesh, Morocco**

Rapporteur:
**Ms Eva Kuminkova**, Czechia

1. HOST COUNTRY CONTACTS

**General information (except visa inquiries)**

* Kindly direct your general inquiries to the following contact address:

 Email: Infor.18.com@gmail.com

* Ms Obenne H. Mbaakanyi

 *Director, Cultural and Creative Sector Development*

 *National Arts Council of Botswana*

 Tel: +267 72892448

 Email: Coordinator.18com@gmail.com

**For visa issues**

* Mr Oteng Arthur Ketshabile

*First Secretary*

*Permanent Delegation of Botswana to UNESCO*

 Tel: +33 141 31 31 00

 Email: botfra@gov.bw

* Ms Thatayaone Sethembeni

*Department of immigration of Botswana*

Tel: +267 71233439 / +267 72691853

Email: tsethembeni@gov.bw

1. VENUE AND SESSIONS
	1. **Venue**

The session will take place at the Wild View Resort, Kasane.

Address: Plot 80 President Avenue, Kasane, Republic of Botswana

Phone: +267 625 0011

Email: info@wildviewresorts.com

Website: <https://www.wildviewresorts.com>

* 1. **Registration**

The main participants are the twenty-four members of the Committee. All participants, delegates, observers, and those wishing to attend the session are invited to register as early as possible, to give the organizers time to process all information and prepare logistics before the opening of the session.

Please **register online** on the dedicated webpage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/registration-01317>. Information to be provided as part of the registration process is included in Annex A. Upon validation of your registration, participants will be invited to send the following information to the host country contact address (Infor.18.com@gmail.com) in order for the host country to facilitate their arrival and stay in Kasane:

- Family name:

- Given/first name:

- Title and function:

- Flight details (arrival and departure dates with the flight number):

- Name of hotel booked:

A registration and information desk will be set up at the entrance of the Wild View Resort (venue of the event) between **8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. from 1 December to 9 December 2023**. A participants’ kit with an 18.COM badge and information about the meeting will be made available by the host country at that time.

* 1. **Sessions**

The Committee will meet every day from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. from Monday 4 to Saturday 9 December 2023. The provisional agenda and the timetable are available on the dedicated [webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/18com) of the Convention.

* 1. **Opening ceremony**

Registered participants, delegates and observers are invited on Sunday, **3 December 2023** to the opening ceremony, organized by the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, which will take place at the Kazungula Bridge **from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00** **p.m.**

It will be a moment to share Botswana’s cultural expressions, as well as an occasion to experience Botswana’s hospitality. The opening ceremony will include performances featuring some of Botswana’s elements inscribed on the Lists of the 2003 Convention.

Participants must obtain their 18.COM badge (see section 3.8) to access the venue of the opening ceremony. Additional practical information concerning transportation will be provided in due time.

* 1. **Side events**

All side events are to be approved by UNESCO. The host country will provide space at the Wild View Resort for these side events which will not take place at the same time as the plenary sessions.

Each space provided will have minimum technical and logistical equipment installed (audio-visual equipment, chairs, and tables). The organizers must make the necessary arrangements to provide any additional services it requires.

Requests with specific requirements must be sent to the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention by sending the [side events request form](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/18.COM_Proposal_for_a_side_event.docx), no later than 20 November 2023, to ichmeetings@unesco.org. The calendar of events of the meeting, including side events, will be updated regularly, and made available through the dedicated webpage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/calendar-of-events-01328>.

* 1. **Interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the following languages for the plenary sessions: English, French and Spanish.

* 1. **Documentation**

For environmental reasons and in order to limit costs, hard copies of documents will only be provided on request. All documents of the session will be published on the dedicated webpage of the Convention*.* Participants are invited to bring their laptops to consult them.

* 1. **Security badges**

Badges will be issued to all delegates and observers at the registration desk. Participants must wear their badges at all times. Only people with badges can access the site. Please note that luggage (travel bags) is not allowed inside the venue.

* 1. **Internet and computer area**

Free Wi-Fi will be provided at the venue. Connection information (login and password) will be provided onsite.

An area outside the plenary room will be provided for delegates during the session, with computers, internet access and printers.

Technical staff will be present to assist them.

* 1. **Meals**

A food court will be set up at the venue, where a reasonably priced lunch will be available. Refreshments will be available throughout the day. Catering is at the expense of the participants.

A restaurant will be put at the disposal of Committee members and the catering costs will be covered by the host country for the Heads of Delegations of States Members of the Committee.

1. ACCOMMODATION

**Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and for all expenses incurred during their stay in Botswana.** Participants are encouraged to book their accommodation as soon as possible by contacting one of the following travel agents identified by the host country:

* No.1 Lady Travel Agency

Phone: +267 71 265 521

Email: Jchika1961@gmail.com

* Double Tracks Africa

Phone: +267 73 223 925

Email: travel@doubletracksafrica.com

* Iswiza Tours and Safaris

Phone: +267 71 368 350

Email: iswizatours@btcmail.co.bw

The list of designated hotels is available through the following link:

<https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/60848-EN.pdf>.

Information regarding transportation between the designated hotels and the venue is provided in Section 5.3 of this document.

1. VISA AND TRAVEL INFORMATION
	1. **Visa**

Participants are invited to contact the relevant embassies, consulates, or travel agents for visa requirements before their departure. Visas can be obtained at entry points for both tourist and business purposes after receiving an acceptance letter from the following website: <http://evisa.gov.bw/#/>.

The list of countries whose nationals are exempt from visa requirements for entry into Botswana is provided in Annex B.

Members of the press must apply for a short-stay visa by contacting the host country through the following address: media.18.com@gmail.com.

* 1. **Getting to Kasane and airport transfers**

Kasane can be accessed through the following international airports:

* Kasane International Airport (Botswana, 10 km from 18.COM venue):Air Botswana provides flight services from Johannesburg (South Africa), Gaborone and Maun (Botswana). Airlink offers flight services from Johannesburg (South Africa).
* Livingstone Airport (Zambia, 75 km from 18.COM venue): Emirates, Kenya Airways, Qatar Airways and South African Airways provide flight services to Livingstone Airport.
* Victoria Falls Airport (Zimbabwe, 95 km from 18.COM venue):Airlink, Emirates, Ethiopian Airlines, Eurowings, Kenya Airways and South African Airways provide flight services to Victoria Falls Airport.
* An information desk will be available in each of the three abovementioned airports to direct participants to the shuttle services or for any further information.

A shuttle service will be provided from the airports to the hotel and from the hotel to the airports only for participants staying at the designated hotels (see Section 4). Participants who do not stay at the officially designated hotels will be required to arrange their own transport to and from the airport.

1. **Airport transfers – Committee members (Heads of Delegations)**

The host country will provide a free car service with driver for the Heads of Delegation of Committee members upon arrival in Kasane, Botswana until departure. Please indicate your arrival and departure times by email to: Protocol.18.com@gmail.com.

1. **Airport transfers – Committee members (other members of the Delegation)**

A free shuttle service will be provided between all three abovementioned airports and recommended hotels (see Section 4). Details will be shared once the schedule is completed by the host country.

1. **Airport transfers – Other participants**

A free shuttle service will be provided between all three abovementioned airports and recommended hotels (see Section 4). Details will be shared once the schedule is completed by the host country.

* 1. **Local travel**

A free shuttle service will be provided between the venue and recommended hotels (see Section 4 for the list of recommended hotels). Details will be shared once the schedule is completed by the host country.

An information desk will be available in each of the recommended hotels to direct you to your shuttle or for any further information.

1. MEDIA
	1. **Media Centre**

A media centre will be provided for the coverage of the eighteenth session of the Committee. Media will also have access to Internet and a fax machine.

* 1. **Press conference**

A press conference is planned to be organized on 4 December 2023. **Only registered media will have access** to this event. For any enquiries, please contact Mr Thomas Mallard, UNESCO (t.mallard@unesco.org).

* 1. **Image rights**

Participants will be recorded and photographed during the event. Through their participation and registration, participants authorize the use of their image for communication and broadcast purposes of the event.

1. PRACTICAL INFORMATION
	1. **Climate**

December to March is the summer season in Kasane with high temperatures averaging 30 to 35 degrees Celsius and lows around 18 degrees Celsius. Rainfall can be expected during this season.

* 1. **Banking services and value added tax (VAT)**

The official currency is Pula (meaning ‘rain’ in Setswana language); one Pula (1 BWP) is divided into 100 thebe. 100 BWP = 7.3 USD approximately. Foreign exchange services are available at the airports, commercial banks, bureaux de change and authorized hotels. US dollar, Euro, British Pound, and South African Rand are the most easily convertible currencies.

Banking hours are usually from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 08:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Saturday. Your passport is required when making currency exchanges.

Major credit cards such as MasterCard and Visa, are accepted throughout the country, that is, in most hotels, restaurants, retail outlets and safari companies. However, shops in remote areas, service stations and cultural sites and community arts and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

* 1. **Electricity supply**

Electric current is 220/240 volts, 50 Hz. Type A, C and I power sockets can be used in Botswana; other types of power sockets will require an adapter.

* 1. **Time zone**

Botswana time zone is Central Africa Time (CAT), UTC/GMT+2.

* 1. **Medical information**
		1. Insurance and medical services

It is essential for visitors to Botswana to have a comprehensive medical insurance policy, to provide coverage for the treatment of serious illness/accidents, and if required, medical evacuation. Personal effects insurance is also advisable. Participants are encouraged to check that their insurance policy will be accepted by service providers in Botswana.

In Botswana, hospitals require medical coverage, or cash payment in advance where medical coverage is not available. Paramedical services will be available at the 18.COM venue, while hotel receptions will also be able to direct you to the nearest medical facility or practitioner.

* + 1. Vaccines and health-related measures

Participants travelling to Botswana from areas infected with yellow fever must have a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate. Otherwise, no other vaccinations are required. All participants are encouraged to check their personal health requirements prior to travel including concerning the need for booster vaccinations (tetanus, polio, diphtheria, hepatitis A). Furthermore, participants are advised to take the necessary precautions against HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Malaria, including cerebral malaria, is common in Northern Botswana, in the Okavango and Chobe areas, particularly during and immediately following the rainy season, from November to April. As the strains of malaria and the drugs used to combat them frequently change, and as certain strains can become drug resistant, it is best to seek medical advice before your departure and take any prescribed medication. Pregnant or very young children are not advised to travel to malarial areas. Other precautions are: to wear long sleeves, socks, closed shoes, generally keep the body covered, to sleep with a mosquito net, to use mosquito coils and repellents.

Due to the heat, preventive measures are highly recommended, these include wearing of wide-brimmed sun hats and sunglasses, liberally applying sunscreen every three or four hours, regularly taking rehydration mixtures, drinking plenty of water, avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun, as well as excessive amounts of alcohol, which causes dehydration.

* + 1. Doctor on call

For health-related inquiries upon your arrival in Kasane, please contact:

Dr Kedisang Kanjane Boikanyo

(+267) 71752676

(+267) 6251249

* + 1. Water

Botswana is a safe country in terms of health; however, it is advisable to be cautious about what you drink. Tap water throughout the country is usually safe to drink. Bottled mineral water is readily available in most shops, supermarkets, at camps and lodges. All those travelling by road are advised to carry sufficient water at all times.

* + 1. Important contact numbers

Medical Rescue: 911

Ambulance Services: 997

Fire Services: 998

Police Services: 999

NB: All toll-free numbers can only be dialled from a local service provider’s SIM card.

* 1. **Security**

Botswana remains a relatively safe place to visit or live. However, participants are always advised to take normal precautions as they would take anywhere else:

* Always lock hotel rooms and car doors;
* Don’t leave valuables in cars or hotel rooms;
* Take care with your bags in shopping centres and other crowded places, and after coming out of banks or ATM kiosks;
* Avoid walking alone at night.
	1. **Tourism**

For any relevant information on places to visit in Botswana, please consult: <https://online.flipbuilder.com/lcha/mzas/mobile/index.html> and for further information <https://www.botswanatourism.co.bw/>.

ANNEX A: Registration form

ANNEX B: List of countries and territories which do not require a visa for entry into Botswana

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Angola
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Bahamas
7. Bahrain
8. Barbados
9. Belgium
10. Belize
11. Brazil
12. Brunei Darussalam
13. Bulgaria
14. Canada
15. Cuba
16. Chile
17. Costa Rica
18. Croatia
19. Cyprus
20. Czechia
21. Denmark
22. Dominica
23. Dominican Republic
24. Estonia
25. Eswatini
26. Finland
27. France
28. Gambia
29. Germany
30. Greece
31. Grenada
32. Guyana
33. Holy See
34. Hong Kong (China)
35. Hungary
36. Iceland
37. Ireland
38. Israel
39. Italy
40. Jamaica
41. Japan
42. Kenya
43. Kiribati
44. Kuwait
45. Latvia
46. Lesotho
47. Liechtenstein
48. Lithuania
49. Luxembourg
50. Malawi
51. Malaysia
52. Maldives
 | 1. Malta
2. Mauritius
3. Mexico
4. Monaco
5. Mozambique
6. Namibia
7. Nauru
8. Netherlands
9. New Zealand
10. Norway
11. Oman
12. Papua New Guinea
13. Paraguay
14. Peru
15. Poland
16. Portugal
17. Qatar
18. Republic of Korea
19. Romania
20. Russian Federation
21. Saint Kitts and Nevis
22. Saint Lucia
23. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
24. Samoa
25. San Marino
26. Saudi Arabia
27. Seychelles
28. Sierra Leone
29. Singapore
30. Slovakia
31. Slovenia
32. Solomon Islands
33. South Africa
34. South Sudan
35. Spain
36. Sweden
37. Switzerland
38. Tonga
39. Trinidad and Tobago
40. Türkiye
41. Tuvalu
42. Uganda
43. United Arab Emirates
44. United Kingdom
45. United Republic of Tanzania
46. United States of America
47. Uruguay
48. Vanuatu
49. Venezuela
50. Zambia
51. Zimbabwe
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