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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION**

**Tenth session**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room I**

**11 to 12 June 2024**

**Report on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

**for the period 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2023**

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| **Summary**  In conformity with Article 10 of the Special Account for the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’s Financial Regulations, the present document includes narrative and financial reports for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023. |

**Background**

1. The Special Account for the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereafter ‘the Fund’) is governed by its Financial Regulations, adopted by the Committee at its first extraordinary session and last amended by the General Assembly at its eighth session (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/d%C3%A9cisions/8.GA/7?dec=decisions&ref_decision=8.GA)). In accordance with its Article 10, biennial narrative and financial reports shall be submitted to the General Assembly. The present document contains such reports and covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
2. The reports should be read in conjunction with the overview of status and trends of the Fund contained in document [LHE/24/10.GA/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-8_EN.docx) and the Report by the Secretariat on its activities during the same reporting period (document [LHE/24/10.GA/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-10.GA-6_EN.docx)). In addition, complementary information regarding specific aspects of the Fund can be found in documents examined by the eighteenth session of the Committee in 2023, notably the ‘Report on International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and proposal for related amendments to the Operational Directives’ (document [LHE/23/18.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-10_EN.docx)) and ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues’ (document [LHE/23/18.COM/13](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-13_EN.docx)).
3. The present document contains:
   * an overview of the income of the Fund (Part A);
   * a report on the use of the financial resources of the Fund (Part B);
   * Annex I – the financial report of the Fund for the reporting period (Statement I) and the associated schedule of appropriations and expenditure for the same period (Schedule 1.1);
   * Annex II – the list of voluntary supplementary contributions paid between 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 for specific purposes, as stipulated in Article 25.5 of the Convention, following a decision of the Committee;
   * Annex III – the total expenditure incurred for each specific activity/project approved by the Committee, from its beginning until 31 December 2023;
   * Annex IV – the forecasts, based on the Secretariat’s estimation, for the future use of the funds allocated to ongoing specific activities/projects approved by the Committee;
   * Annex V – the list of International Assistance projects contracted during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023;
   * Annex VI – a specific report on the implementation of the ‘other functions of the Committee’ (budget line 3) for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
4. **Income (Statement I in Annex I and Annex III)[[1]](#footnote-2)**
5. The sources of income are governed by Article 25.3 of the Convention and Article 5 of the above-mentioned Financial Regulations. During the reporting period, income of the Fund consisted of:

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Compulsory and voluntary assessed contributions from States Parties[[2]](#footnote-3) | |
| Compulsory contributions from 175 States Parties to the Convention, as described in Article 26.1 of the Convention | US$3,956,410 |
| Voluntary contributions received from three of the five States Parties, which, at the time of their ratification, had recourse to Article 26.2 of the Convention | US$541,684 |
| 1. Voluntary supplementary contributions | |
| *Contributions made for specific purposes relating to specific projects approved by the Committee, in accordance with Article 25.5 of the Convention:* |  |
| From the Netherlands for the implementation of the programme ‘Strengthening capacities for preparing nomination files for the Lists of the 2003 Convention in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Latin America and the Caribbean’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)) | US$74,776 |
| From the Netherlands for the implementation of the programme ‘Integration of living heritage into education in two Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)) | US$82,237 |
| From ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region) for the implementation of the programme ‘Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the United Republic of Tanzania and contributing to sustainable development’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)) | US$81,271 |
| From ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region) for the implementation of the programme ‘Practical handbook on periodic reporting with a self-learning tool on the Overall results framework for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’ (Decision [16.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/12)) | US$40,000 |
| *Sub-fund intended exclusively to strengthen the human capacities of the Secretariat (Resolution* [3.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/resolutions/3.GA/9)*)* |  |
| France | US$185,299 |
| Lithuania | US$5,056 |
| Monaco | US$20,431 |
| Slovakia | US$8,529 |
| Slovenia | US$5,330 |
| 1. Interest credited to the Fund | US$840,315 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **US$5,841,338** |

1. Compared to the same period in the preceding biennium, the total income during the reporting period increased by 9%, due to an increase of (i) interest by 349% (from US$187,330 to US$840,315), (ii) voluntary assessed contributions by 21% (from US$448,452 to US$541,684), and (iii) compulsory assessed contributions by 4% (from US$3,800,602 to US$3,956,410). In contrast, the voluntary supplementary contributions decreased by 45% (from US$916,502 to US$502,929).
2. **Use of the financial resources of the Fund (Statement I and Schedule 1.1, pages 7 – 8)**
3. During the reporting period, the resources of the Fund related to the compulsory and voluntary assessed contributions from States Parties were utilized according to the Plan for the use of the resources of the Fund approved by the ninth session of the General Assembly in July 2022 (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/9.GA/10)). Through this resolution, the General Assembly approved a budget of US$8,732,653 for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023. This corresponds to the balance of the Fund available for programme activities as at 31 Decembre 2021 (US$9,732,653) less the Fund Reserve (US$1,000,000).
4. The Financial Report (Schedule 1.1) shows a total expenditure of US$6,394,728 as of 31 December 2023, which corresponds to 73.2% of the approved budget. This represents a significant increase, both in terms of expenditure rate and nominal amount, compared to the 2020–2021 biennium marked by the COVID-19 pandemic (46.1% expenditure rate on 31 December 2021) and even the 2018–2019 biennium (62.9% expenditure rate on 31 December 2019 corresponding to US$5.4 million of expenditure). Explanations for each budget line of the schedule of appropriations and expenditure are provided below.

**International Assistance**

1. In line with the priorities set by the Guidelines for the use of the resources of the Fund in Chapter II.1 of the Operational Directives, the ninth session of the General Assembly decided that the majority of the resources (**budget line 1**, 50% of the approved Plan excluding budget line 1.1) would continue to be allocated to the provision of International Assistance to States Parties in order to supplement their national efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.
2. As at 31 December 2023, the expenditure under budget line 1 more than doubled compared to the same period in the previous biennium (from US$1.48 million for the 1 January 2020 to 31 June 2021 period to US$3.04 million from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023). It corresponds to twenty-nine International Assistance projects contracted during the reporting period[[3]](#footnote-4), including thirteen in the Africa region (49% of the total expenditure related to International Assistance) and six projects involving eight Small Island Developing States (19% of the total expenditure related to International Assistance). For fifteen[[4]](#footnote-5) beneficiary States Parties (three Small Island Developing States), this constituted the first project supported by the Fund under the International Assistance mechanisms, thereby demonstrating the continued expansion of their geographical outreach[[5]](#footnote-6). A list of International Assistance projects contracted during the reporting period can be found in Annex V.
3. The **budget line 1.1** (10% of the approved Plan) was used to cover the biennial costs of three extra-budgetary fixed-term posts (one P3, one P2 and one G5) that were created by the General Assembly at its seventh session in 2018 to fully activate the International Assistance mechanisms and effectively monitor and evaluate their implementation (Resolution [7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8)). The ‘Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring (SIM) Team’ was established and continues to be operational since February 2020.
4. Concerning the **budget line 2** (2.6% of approved Plan), the Secretariat received one preparatory assistance request for a proposal to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, which was approved by the Bureau in June 2023[[6]](#footnote-7). The expenditure reflected also include the provision of technical assistance to nine States Parties[[7]](#footnote-8) for the development and revision of their International Assistance requests, in accordance with Decision [8.COM 7.c](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.COM/7.c). Among the nine States Parties, four are from the Africa region and four are Small Island Developing States. The expenditure rate of this budget line reached 42% against 10.8% during the same period in the 2020–2021 biennium. During the reporting period, six International Assistance requests were finalized through this support mechanism, all of which were approved by the Bureau[[8]](#footnote-9). Three other requests are expected to be finalized in 2024.
5. The use of the budget for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ (**budget line 3**: 20% of approved Plan) is based on a percentage breakdown in terms of Expected Results which are aligned with the performance indicators defined in the approved [41 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380868/PDF/380868eng.pdf.multi) for the Major Programme IV Culture, Outcome 5, Output 5.CLT4 ‘Member States’ and communities’ capacities strengthened to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage’. According to the Plan approved by the General Assembly (see document [LHE/22/9.GA/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-9.GA-10-EN.docx)), these funds were dedicated to: capacity-building and guidance on safeguarding measures and good practices (33% of budget line 3); enhanced monitoring and knowledge management services for the sound governance of the Convention (25% of budget line 3); awareness-raising and outreach (23% of budget line 3); and the integration of intangible cultural heritage into development plans, policies and programmes (19% of budget line 3). As at 31 December 2023, 85.8% of the funds approved were spent compared to 70.9% at the same period in the previous biennium. A detailed narrative report on the implementation of these funds can be found in Annex VI.
6. Following the Internal Oversight Service’s recommendation in its audit of the working methods of the cultural conventions (document [IOS/AUD/2013/06](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/IOS-AUD-2013-06-EN.pdf)), the Committee requested that the Secretariat apply the cost recovery policy consistently when using the resources of the Fund (Decision [8.COM 11](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/8.COM/11)). Consequently, and as provided in Article 6.2 of the Financial Regulations of the Fund, budget lines 1 to 3 were charged with direct expenses related to their implementation.
7. **Budget line 4** (3.1% of the approved Plan) was used to finance the participation of experts representing developing States Members in the Committee, its Bureau and subsidiary bodies. The expenditure rate of 59.2% corresponds to the participation costs of fourteen experts in the seventeenth session of the Committee and twelve experts in its eighteenth session.
8. The expenditure rate of **budget line 5** (3.3% of approved Plan), used for facilitating the participation of experts from developing States Parties non-members of the Committee in Committee sessions and those serving in the Evaluation Body for meetings of the Body, has reached 93.5%. It reflects the participation of: (a) thirty-one experts in the seventeenth session of the Committee; (b) twenty-seven experts in the eighteenth session of the Committee; and (c) seven members of the Evaluation Body eligible for such support in the meetings of the Evaluation Body held at UNESCO Headquarters during the reporting period.
9. **Budget line 6** shows an expenditure rate of 97.6% and reflects the participation costs of the seven accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) serving on the Evaluation Body in 2022 and/or 2023. It also covered the participation of forty-six accredited NGOs from developing countries in the seventeenth session of the Committee, and thirty-four NGOs in its eighteenth session.
10. At its ninth session, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretariat be authorized to make transfers between budget lines 4, 5, 6 and 7, for up to 30% of their initial total allocation (Resolution [9.GA 10](http://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/9.GA/10)). During the 2022–2023 biennium, two budget transfers were simultaneously carried out in October 2023, respectively from budget line 4 to budget line 5 (US$20,000; 7.4% of initial allocation for budget line 4) and from budget line 4 to budget line 6 (US$60,000; 22.2% of initial allocation for budget line 4). These transfers were meant to allow the Fund to respond positively to as many requests as possible to cover the participation costs of experts representing developing States Parties non–members of the Committee (budget line 5) and accredited NGOs from developing countries (budget line 6) for the eighteenth session of the Committee.
11. Lastly, **budget line 7** shows an expenditure rate of 41.6%, corresponding to the advisory fees of the eligible members of the Evaluation Body (eleven in 2022 and eleven in 2023) including those of eligible Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Body for the additional tasks they perform. A total of fifty-seven files were assessed by the Evaluation Body in 2022, and fifty-nine other files were evaluated in 2023. In line with previous biennia, the expenditure rate remains relatively low, because the amount approved for this line is set high to ensure sufficient funds for establishing contracts of the members of the Evaluation Body at the beginning of the biennium, when only one-fourth of the total budget is available.

**ANNEX I**

Statement I



Schedule 1.1



**ANNEX II**



**ANNEX III**



**ANNEX IV**



**ANNEX V**

List of International Assistance projects contracted during the period

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Beneficiary State** | **Project** | **Decision** |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | Armenia\* | Community-Based Inventory, Documenting and Safeguarding Folklore of the Syunik Region of Armenia (No. 01864) | [16.COM 3.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%203.BUR/3.1) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | Cameroon\* | Pilot inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the ten departments of the Centre Region in Cameroon (No. 01622) | [18.COM 3.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%203.BUR/3.1) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | Djibouti | Xeedho (No. 01843) | [16.COM 8.a.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.a.5) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | Mongolia | Sustaining and transmitting Mongol biyelgee (No. 01500) | [16.COM 8.d](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.d.) |
|  | Namibia | Aixan/Gana/Ob#ANS TSI //Khasigu, ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills[[9]](#footnote-10) (No. 01639) | [15.COM 8.a.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/15.COM/8.a.4) |
|  | 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 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/16.COM%202.BUR/3.2) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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/fr/decisions-bureau/18.COM%201.BUR/3.3) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |
|  | Timor Leste | Tais, traditional textile (No. 01842) | [16.COM 8.a.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/16.COM/8.a.6) |
|  | 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) |
|  | 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) |

\* First International Assistance granted

**ANNEX VI**

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF THE SPENDING PLAN FOR**

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

**1 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

For the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023, the spending plan for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ was approved by the General Assembly in July 2022 (Resolution [9.GA 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.GA/10)). The tables below provide information on (a) the implementation of activities for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 as approved in the spending plan along with (b) a table under each expected result providing an analysis of the main challenges encountered and the corrective measures adopted.

**Assessment by Expected Result[[10]](#footnote-11)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget approved for 2022/2023** | **Expenditures at 31/12/2023** | **Exp. Rate % at 31/12/2023** |
| 1,746,531.00 | 1,498,730.53 | 85.8% |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate % at 31/12/2023** |
| 436,633.00 | 436,298.66 | 99.9% |

| **Main achievements: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| --- |
| **Knowledge management processes and data analysis optimized through monitoring interfaces and online workflows**   * Internal knowledge management services and workflows updated to reflect outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the Convention (transfers between Lists and Register, submission of new types of video materials as part of the nomination process). * Infrastructure of knowledge management system updated and performance issues solved to better face peaks of traffic during important statutory events and deadlines. * Creation of a new internal dashboard initiated to manage the increasing amount of data, focusing on maintaining current data and preventing any interruption to operations. |
| **Provision of guidance on good practices on measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage facilitated**   * [Reflection on a broader implementation of Article 18 of the 2003 Convention](https://ich.unesco.org/en/reflection-on-a-broader-implementation-of-article-18-01302) carried out through the organization of a Category VI expert meeting (Stockholm, Sweden, April 2023) and meeting of an Open-ended intergovernmental working group (UNESCO Headquarters, July 2023) with support from the Government of Sweden. Outcomes of the reflection, including proposed amendments to the Operational Directives, were presented to the eighteenth session of the Committee before examination by the tenth session of the General Assembly. * Data gathered through periodic reports analyzed in the form of in-depth analytical reports for States Parties in [Latin America and the Caribbean](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM-INF.6.c_Rev-EN.pdf) in 2022 (English, French, Spanish)and for States Parties in [Europe](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-INF.7.c_EN.docx) in 2023 (English, French). |
| **International Assistance mechanisms promoted among partners and stakeholders**   * Revised [Toolkit for requesting International Assistance from the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/requesting-assistance-00039) published in English and Frenchto reflect the amendments made to the Operational Directives by the ninth session of the General Assembly in July 2022. * Six [online sessions](https://ich.unesco.org/en/requesting-assistance-00039) organized in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) in March 2022 and April 2023 to raise the awareness of various stakeholders of the Convention about International Assistance mechanisms. |
| **Basic Texts of the Convention revised and published**   * [2022 edition of the Basic Texts](https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503) 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 ninth session of the General Assembly in 2022. |

**Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| The recent reflections and reforms undertaken concerning the listing mechanisms, International Assistance and periodic reporting have led the governing bodies of the Convention and through them the Secretariat, to receive an exponentially increasing amount of information and data, coming in various forms (forms, reports, online tools), formats (written, audio, video) and languages. | Priority was given in the operations of the Secretariat during the biennium to the ongoing adaptation and enhancement of online tools and interfaces for the governing bodies of the Convention, the Secretariat and other stakeholders for improved data management and information dissemination. |

**Expected Result 2: Implementation of the Convention in Member States encouraged through a strengthened capacity-building programme and guidance on safeguarding measures and good practices**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate % at 31/12/2023** |
| 576,355.00 | 482,049.79 | 83.6% |

| **Main achievements: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| --- |
| **Facilitators’ network strengthened**   * Global network of facilitators significantly strengthened with ninety-five new members (60% women) from all regions following a global call for expression of interest. Series of online orientation sessions completed for the new members to equip them with the basic knowledge on the Convention and the network. In line with Global Priority Africa, presential training organized for ten incoming facilitators from Africa from 18 to 21 December 2023, in Douala (Cameroon). * New strategy for regional, contextualised training on the implementation of the Convention for the new members developed and currently implemented in all regions in cooperation with the field offices and with the support of Category 2 Centers. * Knowledge of experienced network members enhanced on periodic reporting under the Convention through two 18-hour online courses completed in support of the regional reporting cycles in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. |
| **Reorienting the capacity-building programme for multimodal delivery and thematic expansion advanced**   * Learning Management System (LMS) for the programme designed and established. Conversion of three modules (> 35 thematic units) of capacity-building materials for online learning courses and multimodal delivery formats on the LMS advanced through a partnership agreement with the International Labour Organization’s International Training Centre and in collaboration with senior facilitators. * Training course on periodic reporting for country focal points updated and adapted to combine online and presential training sessions for the roll-out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism in the Arab States and Africa Region. * Eighteen country focal points from the Arab States trained in collaboration with the Sharjah Institute for Heritage and forty-four country focal points from Africa trained in collaboration with the Regional Centre for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa (CRESPIAF). * Twelve senior facilitators from the Asia and the Pacific region equipped to support capacity building for country focal points on periodic reporting through their participation in an online training course (18 hours) organized on the topic in collaboration with the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP). * Capacity-building materials on nominations (18 hours) in the process of updating to reflect the outcomes of the global reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention. * Side event exhibition on the first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Living heritage and sustainable development, organized during the ninth session of the General Assembly and the seventeenth session of the Committee, to raise awareness for this innovative learning opportunity. |
| **Networking, partnerships and youth involvement strengthened**   * Annual coordination meeting with Category 2 centres working in the field of living heritage organized, resulting in networking and planning for joint actions (10th and 11th sessions in 2022 and 2023). * Side event with UNESCO Chairs organized at the seventeenth session of the Committee, facilitating experience sharing and identification of future collaboration facilitated. * New audiences of young people engaged in learning about living heritage and sustainable development through the roll-out of the first comprehensive Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in three languages on the topic, in partnership with ICHCAP and the SDG Academy (> 3500 learners from > 160 countries as of October 2023). * Increased information and resources available on global tertiary education networking for integrating living heritage safeguarding in universities through updating the webpage. |

**Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| The capacity building approach for periodic reporting has contributed to ensuring high submission rates across all regions so far. However, periodic reporting requires coordinated teamwork with many stakeholders at the national level, who may not all have access to the synchronous capacity building activities, but are looking for user-friendly guidance. | To respond to this challenge, and thanks to the generous contribution from the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat is working on the development of a handbook for periodic reporting, which will display user-friendly tools (both online and offline) for asynchronous learning, easily shareable with stakeholders involved. |
| Finding a suitable partner to design and develop online learning courses and multimodal delivery formats for the Learning Management System of the capacity-building programme for safeguarding living heritage and sustainable development was a considerable challenge.  The task requires a specific skill set in the field of instructional design combined with a thorough understanding of the programme goals and the multistakeholder audiences served by this programme (government officials, bearer communities of living heritage, civil society organizations, actors from various development sectors). | To overcome the challenge, UNESCO engaged in a UN-to-UN partnership with the International Training Centre for ILO, which has the specific combination of knowledge, skills and experiences and is now working closely with the Secretariat and experienced facilitators to produce the online courses and training formats best tailored to the programme needs. |

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate % at 31/12/2023** |
| 323,108.00 | 288,012.72 | 89.1% |

| **Main achievements: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| --- |
| **Partnerships and tools for the implementation of the living heritage and education programme developed**   * Collaboration with the Education Sector further strengthened through providing technical support for the integration of living heritage safeguarding in key international standard-setting instruments and frameworks, such as the Culture and Arts Education Framework and the revision of the ‘[1974 Recommendation](https://www.unesco.org/en/education/1974recommendation)’[[11]](#footnote-12). * Partnership established with Rhodes University (South Africa) to design and test tools to assess learning achievement that results from integrating living heritage in formal education with a view to demonstrate better the benefits of this approach for the learners, their communities and for improving educational quality and relevance. * Paper on Global Citizenship Education and Intangible Cultural Heritage commissioned and peer-reviewed jointly with the Education Sector to further build understanding of all stakeholders on these linkages for future action in this field. * Joint theory of change prepared with Education Sector at UNESCO Harare Office to guide a project on living heritage and education in Zimbabwe and Namibia (in line with Recommendation 4 of the 2021 IOS Evaluation). * [Clearinghouse on living heritage and education](https://ich.unesco.org/en/clearinghouse-education) now accessible in two additional languages (French and Spanish) and updated with 55 resources for learners, teachers, educators and experts, 30 projects, 25 events and 22 news. |
| **Importance of safeguarding living heritage for sustainable development demonstrated through thematic initiatives**   * [Guidance note](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-12_EN_Rev..docx) on economic dimensions of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage prepared through a [Category VI expert meeting](https://ich.unesco.org/en/expert-meeting-on-economic-dimensions-01316) held on 27 – 28 September 2023 (UNESCO Headquarters) and 20 October 2023 (Online) to frame and promote a flexible, heritage-sensitive and rights-based approach to responsible and inclusive planning and management for economic dimensions of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding. The guidance note was presented to the eighteenth session of the Committee in December 2023. * Scoping literature review and background documents completed as preparatory steps for the drafting of a guidance note on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and climate change. Background documents underwent a peer review by a panel of sixteen experts between August to October 2023. This documentation lays the foundation for the organization of an expert meeting in June and September 2024. * In preparation to a guidance note on intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts and to an expert meeting on the topic, preparation of background documents and working documents initiated, including: i) insights from a literature review and global survey conducted in 2022; ii) case study analysis; iii), as well as outline of key issues, challenges, and opportunities related to safeguarding living heritage in cities; iv) proposed methodological approaches addressing the needs of intangible cultural heritage in urban settings and emphasizing urban planning perspectives. Additionally, in the second half of 2023, a peer review of the background documents was conducted, enhancing the international network of experts in this field. |

**Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| The Living heritage and Education programme has contributed to a better understanding among education and culture stakeholders of the role of living heritage for attaining Sustainable Development Goal 4 on quality education and lifelong learning for all and demonstrated approaches of how to integrate living heritage in formal and non-formal education. However, anchoring the ‘learning with living heritage’ more firmly in education systems is a challenge, partly because it is not always possible, to provide the evidence of how it impacts students' learning achievement. | To address this challenge, UNESCO is developing partnerships with specialized universities, who bring together experts and educators working at the junction of living heritage and education, to develop tools to assess the learning achievement that results from integrating living heritage in education. |
| The implementation of thematic initiatives represents new forays into the creation of important linkages between living heritage and areas of sustainable development. As such, they require tackling new and complex issues and understanding the state of affairs with already ongoing actions from existing intergovernmental, international and national stakeholders. | The Secretariat initiated [global surveys](https://ich.unesco.org/en/surveys-on-thematic-initiatives-01277) for all three thematic initiatives to understand the scope of existing activities and gather insights from stakeholders. Furthermore, a wide range of professionals coming from different fields of expertise – often in the form of peer review panels and/or through expert meetings – is involved in each initiative to develop a comprehensive approach to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and sustainable development. |

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Allocation** | **Expenditures** | **Exp. Rate % at 31/12/2023** |
| 410,435.00 | 292,369.36 | 71.2% |

|  |
| --- |
| **Main achievements: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023** |
| **Communication and outreach tools developed and implemented to promote the objectives of the Convention, in particular in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention**   * In line with the Global Communication's Strategy of UNESCO, revamped [website of the 2003 Convention](https://ich.unesco.org/en/) (design and organization of the content reviewed) launched in 2022 to align and harmonize it with UNESCO’s graphic charter. * Website maintained up to date with interactive content: ‘Dive into intangible cultural heritage’ updated with 2022 and 2023 inscriptions, audio clips introduced for elements inscribed up to 2023 and new [webpage created on UNESCO Chairs](https://ich.unesco.org/en/unesco-chairs-and-unitwin-networks-01333) active in the field of living heritage safeguarding. * Series of awareness-raising actions undertaken for the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2023: * [Platform dedicated to the twentieth anniversary](https://ich.unesco.org/en/anniversary) developed and launched in 2023 to highlight milestones in the history of the Convention and showcase 179 activities organized by a broad range of Convention’s stakeholders around the world. * Social media campaign carried out (reach of over 20.9 million worldwide) with the development of a social media kit facilitating direct engagement under the theme We Are #LivingHeritage. * ‘We are Living Heritage’ photo exhibition displayed on the fences of UNESCO Headquarters during the forty-second session of UNESCO’s General Conference in November 2023 to highlight the living and ever-changing nature of intangible cultural heritage in the context of the anniversary. * Special commemorative stamp ‘20 years… Let’s celebrate living heritage’ released in September 2023 by the French postal service. * [2023 European Heritage Days](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/heritage-days-2023-unesco-celebrates-living-heritage#:~:text=On%20the%20occasion%20of%20the,its%2020th%20anniversary%20this%20year.) organized under the theme of Living Heritage at UNESCO Headquarters for three days to promote the Convention’s objectives and the diversity of living heritage, including a UNESCO Campus that welcomed 740 students at UNESCO Headquarters. * Development of a publication on living heritage and Indigenous Peoples initiated to highlight the experiences and enhance understanding of the crucial role played by Indigenous Peoples in safeguarding their living heritage through a selection of inscribed elements (launch expected in 2024), as part of UNESCO's actions in the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Languages (2023-2033). * Development of a publication on living heritage for children to promote the diversity of living heritage and enhance its understanding, as part of the UNESCO-Hachette UK partnership (launch expected in 2025). |

**Challenges and risks in implementation and remedial actions**

| **Key challenges** | **Remedial actions** |
| --- | --- |
| The development of outreach partnerships and the opening of more interactive interfaces allowing direct engagement with stakeholders on the Convention’s website contribute positively to the visibility of living heritage but require adequate human resources, as highlighted in the 2021 IOS Evaluation. | Future programming activities should continue to better factor in the human resources dimension to ensure an efficient implementation. Meanwhile, the use of online tools and social media facilitates an adequate level of visibility for a broad range of communication and outreach activities. |

1. Figures have been rounded as compared to Annexes I and II, pages 7 – 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. In Financial Statement I (Annex I), the assessed compulsory contributions for the period 2022–2023 are shown as income, whether they have been received or not. As at 31 December 2023, the unpaid balance of assessed contributions for 2022–2023 represented 4% of the assessed compulsory contributions for the period 2022–2023. Detailed account of assessed contributions received from each State Party is available in the [Statement of assessed contributions for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/63471-EN.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. In addition, ten International Assistance requests approved during the 2022 – 2023 biennium will be contracted in the present biennium due to a) administrative and technical delays or difficulties; b) the wish expressed by implementing agencies to start the project in 2024; or c) the approval of the request by the Committee of its Bureau in the last quarter of the biennium. These will be reported in the next report to be presented to the twentieth session of the Committee in 2025 and the eleventh session of the General Assembly in 2026. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Armenia, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cameroon, Chad, Costa Rica, Grenada, Pakistan, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Slovakia, South Sudan, Thailand and Uzbekistan. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. See document [LHE/23/18.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM-10_EN.docx) for further information regarding the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Mongolia (Decision [18 COM 2.BUR 5.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/18.COM%202.BUR/5.1)). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Angola, the Bahamas, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Sao Tome and Principe. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The Bahamas (Decision [18.COM 2.BUR 4.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_2.BUR-Decisions.docx)), Cameroon (Decision [18.COM 3.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_3.BUR-Decisions_en.docx)), Central African Republic (Decision [18.COM 1.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-Decisions_EN_.docx)), Haiti (Decision [18.COM 2.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_2.BUR-Decisions.docx)), Nicaragua (Decision [18.COM 2.BUR 4.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_2.BUR-Decisions.docx)) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (Decision [17.COM 4.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-22-17.COM_4.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. The eighteenth session of the Committee approved the modification of name proposed by Namibia, and decided to modify the name of the element to ‘Aboxan Musik ǀŌb ǂÂns tsî ǁKhasigu, ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills’ (Decision [18.COM 21](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/21)). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. All figures in the tables are extracted from the Financial report (as of 31 December 2023) issued by UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning – Grants Management Section. All figures in the tables are expressed in US dollars. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. The Recommendation on Education for Peace and Human Rights, International Understanding, Cooperation, Fundamental Freedoms, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development (adopted with this new title at the dedicated intergovernmental meeting). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)