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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room VIII**

**4 June 2024**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 2**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/2 Rev](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-2_Rev..docx). and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its second meeting as annexed to this Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Agenda of the second meeting of the 19.COM Bureau**

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| Agenda item | | Document |
| 1. | Opening |  |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/2 Rev. |
| 3. | Examination of requests for International Assistance up to US$100,000 | LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/3 |
| 4. | Examination of requests for preparatory assistance for nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List | LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/4 |
| 5. | Other business   1. Statutory meeting dates in 2024 2. Nominations under the 2025 cycle 3. Case of extreme urgency 4. Other issues | LHE/24/Schedule Rev.  LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/MISC/1 |
| 6. | Closure |  |

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 3.1**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-3_.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02124 submitted by Angola,
3. Takes note that Angola has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Safeguarding semba by creating new levers for intergenerational transmission and income-generating opportunities**:

To be implemented by the Instituto Nacional do Património Cultural (INPC), this two-year project aims to establish suitable conditions for safeguarding semba, a traditional musical genre and dance, by creating opportunities for intergenerational transmission and income generation. Rooted in working-class neighbourhoods, semba is a symbol of Angolan identity-building and anticolonial resistance. However, lately it has begun to lose influence and significance among young urban populations who view the practice as old-fashioned. This has resulted in a gradual decline in the number of composers, musicians, dancers and craftspeople of traditional instruments, as well as in the performance and transmission of semba. The objective of this project is to counter these trends through capacity-building, research, awareness-raising and communication activities aimed at reconnecting the population with listening to and practising semba. Activities include participatory inventory workshops and inventorying activities with the communities concerned; digital platforms (‘impact lab’) to collectively experiment, create and share audiovisual content, resources, tools, skills and knowledge; and workshops on the creation of dicanza (a related percussion instrument) and cultural entrepreneurship. Originating from a request from the semba community, the project will also build the capacities on the 2003 Convention of practitioners and officials from the INPC, staff at the National Museum of Anthropology and members of the National Union of Artists and Composers.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Angola has requested an allocation of US$86,050 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02124, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** This project was initiated in response to the needs of the semba community, for which the State Party requested technical assistance to prepare the International Assistance request. During the mission of the expert in July 2023, who provided this assistance, community members and practitioners of semba (dancers, craftspeople, musicians, composers) met to share their safeguarding needs and gave their consent to participate in the project. Furthermore, a group of seventeen people, mostly community representatives, contributed to its elaboration. They will be fully involved in training workshops, community-based inventorying workshops and fieldwork exercises.

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is well structured, and the project costs are clearly explained. The amount of assistance requested is appropriate for the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3:** The proposed activities are well conceived in order to establish the necessary dynamics amongst the communities concerned to ensure the intergenerational transmission of the element and income-generating opportunities, required for safeguarding semba. They are described in detail and presented in a logical sequence, covering six activities: (a) a training workshop on the 2003 Convention and on community-based inventory; (b) experimentation, creation and sharing of audiovisual content on semba through the ‘impact lab’ digital platform; (c) community-based inventories and field exercises in Luanda; (d) a training programme on the manufacturing of dicanza; (e) a training workshop to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of semba practitioners; and (f) a training workshop on the elaboration of nomination files to the Lists of the 2003 Convention.

**Criterion A.4:** The project will contribute to the viability and visibility of the element. It should strengthen the capacity of the bearers and practitioners who will in turn raise awareness among civil society, youth and other stakeholders on the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Through a wide range of activities, a broad network of practitioners, equipped with knowledge on the 2003 Convention and the necessary skills to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, will be able to transmit their knowledge of semba to the new generations with a view to safeguarding it. In addition, the cultural entrepreneurship workshop will help artists diversify their income sources and ensure their financial stability.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 9 per cent (US$9,200) and other partners will contribute 6 per cent (US$6,600) of the total amount of the project budget (US$101,850). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 85 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The project focuses on building the capacities of the communities concerned to strengthen the viability of the element and transmit it to future generations. During the various training workshops, governmental staff and community representatives will receive specific training on the 2003 Convention, community-based inventorying and safeguarding approaches. Therefore, ninety bearers and practitioners will benefit from the capacity building component. In addition, nearly fifty young people will be directly involved in the project activities: a) they will be trained on developing digital contents and materials aiming at raising awareness about the element, and b) they will be the primary beneficiaries of the training workshop to manufacture the instrument.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a):** The project is national in scope and involves partners such as the National Museum of Anthropology, the Council of composers, the National Union of Artists and Composers and practitioner associations.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The community-based inventory and the communication tools developed will contribute to raising awareness among communities about the importance of safeguarding the element. In addition, the project indicates that it could have lasting results as it will encourage similar initiatives for the inventorying of intangible cultural heritage in Angola.

1. Notes with interest that the issues raised by the request concern economic dimensions of living heritage safeguarding with a focus on creativity, requiring a heritage-sensitive planning and management process in order to maximize the positive effects of economic activities on living heritage safeguarding while mitigating the potential negative impacts on its viability;
2. Approves the International Assistance request from Angola for the project entitled **Safeguarding semba by creating new levers for intergenerational transmission and income-generating opportunities**,and grants the amount of US$86,050 for the implementation of this project;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 3.2**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-3_.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02226 submitted by Bangladesh,
3. Takes note that Bangladesh has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Implementing community-based he]ritage festivals in eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh**:

To be implemented by the Bangladesh National Museum, this two-year project aims at implementing community-based and -led intangible cultural heritage festivals across eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh. The project is a collaborative effort between the Bangladesh National Museum and the Consortium for ICH-pedia in Bangladesh. It will focus on safeguarding, promoting and transmitting the living heritage of eight communities through capacity building, research and intergenerational knowledge sharing. For each division, the activities include awareness-raising among local practitioners, performers and other stakeholders; documentation on the elements concerned; and capacity-building workshops to raise awareness on the 2003 Convention. After each festival, review sessions and workshops will allow the participating communities to share their perspectives on project achievements and to discuss lessons learned and sustainability measures for future events. The project is expected to ensure the continued celebration and protection of Bangladesh’s diverse cultural heritage, particularly as it will also result in the comprehensive documentation of the living heritage elements featured in the festivals. In addition, it will build lasting partnerships between the organizations, communities and stakeholders involved in the project and empower local communities and community leaders to organize future festivals.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Bangladesh has requested an allocation of US$99,700 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02226, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The project is the result of a long consultation process with the communities concerned, conducted in 2021 during the inventorying of their living heritage. The following communities were consulted and involved in the elaboration of the request: Chakma, Marma, Tripura and Rakhain communities; Gidree Bawlee community; Hajong community; Manashamangal community; Monipuri community; Motua community; Rowing and Santhal communities. They are described in the request as small ethnic minority groups facing social challenges. The project emphasizes the central and active role of the communities throughout its implementation, from the planning to the monitoring stages. In addition, a steering committee will be established to manage the project. It will be composed of staff from the Bangladesh National Museum, the Consortium for ICH-pedia, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and eight community representatives.

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is well structured, and the project costs are clearly explained. The amount of assistance requested is appropriate for the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3:** The project consists of six activities that are described in detail: (a) the establishment of the project management structure; (b) the organization of the community festivals; (c) capacity-building workshops on the 2003 Convention; (d) documentation and research on the community festivals; (e) a workshop to identify the needs to maintain the viability of the festivals and develop safeguarding measures, and (f) the production of awareness-raising and communication materials. The proposed activities are well conceived in relation to the objectives and expected results of the project.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is seeking to develop a multi-stakeholder approach to safeguarding the country’s eight festivals by creating a network amongst the communities concerned, the governmental staff and NGOs working in the field of intangible cultural heritage, both at the local and national levels. This partnership will be maintained beyond the completion of the project and will lay the foundation for a solid collaboration to safeguard and promote intangible cultural heritage at the national level. Through capacity-building and empowerment, community leaders and practitioners will be able to continue organizing their festivals and perpetuating their social practices, rituals, and festive events, avoiding the risk of their disappearance. Finally, the production and dissemination of various communication materials will raise awareness among civil society and different stakeholders of the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, thus increasing the visibility and viability of these elements.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 12 per cent (US$13,200) of the total amount of the project budget (US$112,900). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 88 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The project will significantly contribute to building local and national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. A total of eight workshops would be organized to target each community: nearly eighty community representatives and staff from local NGOs will benefit from training on the 2003 Convention adapted to the local context. The festivals will enable community members to transmit their knowledge and skills to future generations through traditional crafts, performing arts, ritual practices and storytelling. They will also enable other members of the community to have a better understanding of the historical, social and cultural significance inherent in each festival. Covering a large part of the country, the project will enable over five hundred people to participate in the festivals and other activities during its implementation.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a):** The project is national in scope and involves cooperation with a wide range of national and local NGOs and community organizations in various divisions of the country.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The communication and educational materials developed during the project will serve to raise awareness among communities and the general public of the importance of safeguarding the eight festivals of Bangladesh, thus contributing to their recognition at the national level.

1. Notes with interest that the activities planned under the request would contribute to promoting and celebrating the diversity of minority cultures;
2. Approves the International Assistance request from Bangladesh for the project entitled **Implementing community-based heritage festivals in eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh**,and grants the amount of US$99,700 for the implementation of this project;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 3.3**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-3_.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02229, submitted by Belize, Costa Rica Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (coordinating State), Nicaragua and Panama,
3. Takes note that Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama have requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Exchange of experiences and cultural dialogues for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendant peoples through the preparation of inventories in the SICA region and Cuba**:

To be implemented by the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination (CECC/SICA) in cooperation with the Regional Center for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) and with the involvement of the Central American Black Organization (ONECA), this eighteen-month multinational project aims to build collective and participatory knowledge on the processes of inventorying the living heritage of Afro-descendant peoples. It builds on a first project started in February 2023 (scheduled to be completed by August 2024), which has supported the establishment and capacity building of national living heritage management units, the mapping of safeguarding initiatives in the States Parties concerned and the preparation of project proposals for national inventories. As a second phase of this project, the new project will continue to apply a regional and intersectoral approach in the nine submitting countries to: (a) further build the capacities of officials and community bearers and leaders in inventorying living heritage; (b) draw-up inventories of living heritage; and (c) share experiences among the participating communities and countries. Activities include virtual workshops, in-person meetings and online technical support for developing national inventorying projects. At the community level, the project is expected to strengthen the safeguarding capacities of community bearers and leaders, while setting the foundation for future safeguarding projects, policies, and measures at the state level. At the regional level, it will serve as a model for multinational projects and may contribute, in a long run, to the creation of a regional observatory of intangible cultural heritage of African descent.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the regional level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that the requesting States have requested an allocation of US$99,990 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02229, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** This request is a continuation of the ongoing project ‘Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba’ (see criterion A.7 below). The project has established a common conceptual and methodological framework for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the nine countries concerned. Community representatives played an active role in the implementation of this first phase, in particular through mapping and the elaboration of safeguarding initiatives for intangible cultural heritage elements of Afro-descendant communities. Based on the results obtained so far, the objective of the second phase of the project in question focuses on the elaboration of national inventories of the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the nine countries concerned. In this regard, the involvement of the Central America Black Organization (ONECA) will ensure that the voices of Afro-descendant communities are heard and respected.

**Criterion A.2:** The budget is presented in a structured manner, reflecting the planned activities and related expenses. The amount of assistance requested may therefore be considered as appropriate for the implementation of the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3:** The proposed activities consist of a series of workshops, online and in-person, to train the beneficiary communities, officials and experts from the nine requesting States Parties on the inventorying of living heritage. Activities will be undertaken with the support of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL) and include upstream advice and the organization of national meetings (one in each country). A final regional workshop will bring together all the stakeholders to share the results of the national inventories, discuss ways forward and develop a third phase of the project aimed at disseminating the results of the first two phases throughout the region. The activities are presented in a logical sequence and correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request.

**Criterion A.4:** Through the project, the implementing agency and the nine requesting States Parties are expected to continue to strengthen the institutional and multi-stakeholders’ framework initially set up by the Council of Ministers of Culture of the SICA region and Cuba in the first phase of the project for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendant peoples. Moreover, the results of the national inventories and the information gathered during the project will constitute an important source of documentation on living heritage that may lead to the creation of a regional observatory. Lastly, the project should raise awareness among the population of the requesting States Parties of the importance of the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities, thereby contributing to an increased recognition of this heritage and its future safeguarding.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting States Parties will contribute 66 per cent (US$284,590) and other partners will contribute 11 per cent (US$48,250) of the total amount of the project budget (US$432,830). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 23 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The request adequately describes how the project will contribute to building capacities to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendants. It will strengthen the capacity of sixty-four representatives from Afro-descendant community-based organizations and twenty-seven staff from departments dedicated to intangible cultural heritage in the nine States Parties. Nearly one hundred individuals will participate in the various activities and will benefit from various training sessions, notably on inventorying. They will become resource persons equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to continue the inventory work and other safeguarding efforts at the national and regional level beyond the end of the project. Women’s participation will be ensured throughout the project.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting States Parties have benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for one ongoing multinational project entitled ‘Capacity building for community leaders and public managers to safeguard the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities in the SICA region and Cuba’ (file no. 02010, February 2023 – August 2024, US$99,986) approved by the Bureau of the seventeenth session of the Committee (Decision [17.COM 5.BUR 3.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/17.COM%205.BUR/3.1)). The work stipulated in the contract related to this project is being carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a):** The proposed activities are regional in scope and involve cooperation with local and national implementing partners, including Ministries of Culture of the States Parties involved and their intangible cultural heritage departments, the Technical Secretariat of the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination of the Central American Cultural Integration System (CECC/SICA), ONECA and CRESPIAL.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The project is expected to encourage national governments to incorporate the inventoried Afro-descendant living heritage into their safeguarding plans and frameworks and provide the basis for future updating of national inventories. The documentation and the materials collected during the two phases of the project are expected to constitute important resources for the future regional observatory.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama for the project entitled **Exchange of experiences and cultural dialogues for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of Afro-descendant peoples through the preparation of inventories in the SICA region and Cuba**, and grants the amount of US$99,990 for the implementation of this project;
2. Commends the continued commitment of the nine requesting States as well as the SICA, CRESPIAL and ONECA – including financially – to promote the multi-country integration process in Central America, while highlighting the importance of the living heritage of Afro-descendant communities with reference to the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024);
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting States Parties on the technical details of the assistance (and to issue the contract once the ongoing project has been completed), paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting States Parties to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 4.1**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-4.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02212 submitted by Papua New Guinea,
3. Takes note that Papua New Guinea has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$10,000 to prepare a nomination of **Social practices and cultural elements of Toare Gulf mask festival** to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding:

To be implemented by the Papua New Guinea National Cultural Commission, this nine-month project is aimed at preparing a nomination file to the Urgent Safeguarding List for the social practices and rituals related to the Toare mask festival. The Toare community has a population of around six to seven hundred people and is located in the Uamai villages. An annual celebration and a means of asking ancestral spirits for blessings, protection and bountiful harvests, the festival involves specific rituals, songs, dance performances and a procession. The masks are created using natural materials, and the colours, styles and shapes used have spiritual meanings and connotations. The festival and the related knowledge and practices are at risk of disappearing due to religious and educational influences that portray the practice as evil. This project will support, among others, awareness-raising activities on intangible cultural heritage among local authorities and bearer communities and ensure their involvement in the preparation of the nomination file to the Urgent Safeguarding List.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02212, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The request clearly indicates that the Toare community members will be broadly involved in the preparation of the nomination, as will the traditional leaders, and provincial and local officials. Community representatives will also be part of the exercise to document the social and cultural practices related to the element and will be involved in the construction of a cultural centre.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will be used to organize two awareness-raising meetings on the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The first meeting will involve provincial and local government authorities, while the second one will target community members, bearers and practitioners to obtain their free, prior and informed consent for the initiative. In addition, the project will contribute to the collection of information (film and photographs) to be submitted as part of the nomination file. The construction of a cultural centre is also planned and traditional materials will be used to store and safekeep the related cultural objects, such as masks.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. The submission is expected before 31 March 2025 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-first session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2026 cycle, in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 34 per cent (US$5,138) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance. Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 66 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** It is expected that the capacities of the community members will be reinforced through their involvement in the documentation of the element. In addition, the two meetings foreseen as part of the project will contribute to the discussion and definition of the safeguarding measures for the element, thus increasing its viability.

**Criterion A.7:** The requesting State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Papua New Guinea for the preparation of the nomination for the **Social practices and cultural elements of Toare Gulf mask festival** in view of the submission of the nomination for possible inscription of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and grants the amount of US$10,000 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Encourages the requesting State Party to strengthen the capacity of the communities concerned to safeguard the practice in question by explaining the mechanisms of the 2003 Convention and its purpose during the consultations;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
4. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 4.2**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-4.docx) and the request for preparatory assistance no. 02251 submitted by Uganda,
3. Takes note that Uganda has requested International Assistance in the amount of US$7,970 to prepare a nomination of **Imbalu ceremonies** to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding:

To be implemented by the Inzu Ya Masaaba/Institution of the Umukuuka, this three-month project is aimed at preparing a nomination file to the Urgent Safeguarding List for the Imbalu Ceremonies in Uganda. The ceremonies are a rite of passage for young men that involve many activities, from cultural education, to running, dancing and beer brewing. They culminate with the circumcision of initiates, accompanied by rites such as the smearing of millet paste on their bodies and a dance performance to welcome them back into the community. The ceremonies are observed by the Bamasaaba communities in eastern and western Uganda. The Imbalu ceremonies are at risk of disappearing due to a marked decrease in traditional circumcision pathways and changes such as wildlife protection laws that affect certain elements of the ceremonies. Environmental challenges, including a drop in millet and sorghum production, are also impacting the ceremonies. This project will support the preparation of the nomination file for the Imbalu ceremonies through consultations with bearers, community leaders, women and youth representatives, and the Umukuuka institution, with the goal of obtaining their consent and involvement.

1. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02251, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The requesting State Party intends to organize a consultation workshop with the communities concerned to ensure their widest possible involvement in the preparation of the nomination and to obtain their free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the element to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. In addition, community members will support the documentation of the cultural practices and rites associated with the Imbalu ceremonies.

**Criterion A.2:** The amount requested by the State Party seems appropriate in relation to the proposed activities for the preparation of the nomination file to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

**Criterion A.3:** The preparatory assistance will support the organization of a consultation workshop that will bring together nearly 160 stakeholders (practitioners, community leaders, custodians). The funds will be also used to prepare a nomination video highlighting the traditions of the Imbalu ceremonies and their contribution to Bamasaaba cultural identity.

**Criterion A.4:** The requesting State Party is committed to submitting a nomination for the possible inscription of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. The submission is expected before 31 March 2025 for possible inscription by the Committee at its twenty-first session, provided that the nomination can be included in the 2026 cycle in application of the annual ceiling for the number of nominations and the priority system in force at the time of the submission.

**Criterion A.5:** The requesting State Party will contribute 6 per cent (US$500) of the total amount of the project for preparatory assistance. Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 94 per cent of the total amount of the project.

**Criterion A.6:** The public consultations and the communities’ involvement in the fieldwork should help build their capacities and raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding this element to ensure its continued viability.

**Criterion A.7:** Uganda has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for seven completed projects and two ongoing projects.[[1]](#footnote-1) The work stipulated in the contracts related to these projects was and is being carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

1. Approves the request for preparatory assistance from Uganda for the preparation of the nomination for the **Imbalu ceremonies** in view of the submission of the nomination for possible inscription of the element on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding,and grants the amount of US$7,970 to the requesting State Party to this end;
2. Encourages the requesting State Party to strengthen the capacity of the communities concerned to safeguarding the practice in question by explaining the purpose, scope and mechanisms of the 2003 Convention during the consultations;
3. Invites the requesting State Party to demonstrate in the nomination file that the proposed element is compatible with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, of sustainable development as specified in Article 2 of the Convention, and that it respects free, prior, sustained and informed consent of the individuals concerned, while taking into account the Convention’s Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (particularly points 4 and 6);
4. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and the work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;
5. Invites the requesting State Party to use Form ICH-05-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 19.COM 2.BUR 5**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document [LHE/24/19.COM 2.BUR/MISC/1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-24-19.COM_2.BUR-MISC-1.pdf) concerning the request submitted by the association ‘Koun Breizh-Mémoire de Bretagne’ dated 17 April 2024 in relation to toponymy in Breton language with reference to the national legislation in France (the 3DS Law) aiming to streamline the postal address system on its territory and brought to its attention on 3 June 2024,
2. Recalling Article 17.3 of the Convention, and paragraphs 1 and 32 of the Operational Directives,
3. Takes note of the request for the inscription of ‘Toponymy in Breton language’ on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as a case of extreme urgency in the sense of Article 17.3 of the Convention;
4. Further takes note of the information provided by the State Party of France in relation to this request during the present meeting;
5. Considers that the nomination does not constitute a case of extreme urgency based on Article 17.3 of the Convention and requests the Secretariat to inform the association concerned and the State Party of France accordingly;
6. Encourages the State Party of France to continue working with the communities concerned in ensuring the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region concerned, while taking into account the potential impact that its national legislation may have on the status of intangible cultural heritage on its territory.

1. (a) ‘Inventorying the intangible cultural heritage of four communities in Uganda’ (US$216,000; July 2013–March 2015); (b) Preparatory assistance (List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding) for the nomination entitled ‘The male-child cleansing ceremony of the Lango people of North Central Uganda (Dwoko Atin Awobi lot)’ (US$8,570; March 2012–March 2013); (c) Preparatory assistance (List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding) for the nomination entitled ‘Madi bow lyre music, O’di’ (US$10,000; December 2013–March 2015); (d) ‘Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda’ (US$24,990; September 2015–August 2017); (e) ‘Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda’ (US$97,582; June 2017–June 2020); (f) ‘Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda’ (US$232,120; February 2018–February 2020); (g) ‘Strengthening the capacity of community museums to promote inscribed intangible cultural heritage elements’ (US$61,471; May 2020–June 2022); (h) ‘Consolidating the promotion of intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in collaboration with bearer communities’ (US$98,203; April 2024–March 2026); and (i) ‘Consolidating and upscaling efforts of community museums to safeguard six intangible cultural heritage elements in Uganda’ (US$99,601; contract under establishment). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)