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Building capacities for safeguarding living heritage and preparing nominations to the Lists of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Africa

Presentation by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



Key project information

- **Donor:** Government of Japan
- **Duration:** 36 months
- **Inception phase:** 6 months
- **9 proposed beneficiary countries (no elements inscribed):** Comoros, Equatorial-Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Sao Tomé et Príncipe, South Sudan
- Other countries in Africa are expected to get involved in experience sharing and peer learning activities.



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- **Global reflection** on the listing mechanisms in 2018-2022
- **Amendments to the Operational Directives** and the **forms**: make the Lists and Register more dynamic and interconnected, while bringing communities aspirations to the front.
- **Recurrent challenges** highlighted by the Evaluation Body (first nominations): format, lack of information, concepts not in line with the Convention.
- Also **promising developments** with recently more nominations submitted from Africa.

Why this project?



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- Knowledge and capacity **gap** to prepare solid nomination files.
- Geographical **imbalance** of the Lists of the Convention.
- **Unharnessed** potential of South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange (including in view of preparing multinational nominations).
- **Untapped** benefits of integrating living heritage in culture-sector wide and sustainable development policies.

Project's objectives

- Build capacities at the national level for the preparation of **nominations files** to the Lists of the 2003 Convention.
- Foster **peer-to-peer learning** and **South-South cooperation** for an enhanced living heritage safeguarding.
- Encourage **synergies** and generate **recommendations** for the integration of living heritage in **sustainable development** policies, within and beyond the culture sector.



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Results chain: outcomes and outputs

Impact

States Parties in Africa enhance community-based safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage through increased cooperation within and between countries, embedding it in broader culture policy frameworks for sustainable development

Outcomes

African States Parties utilize the knowledge and capacities generated through the project to prepare national and multi-national nomination files to the Lists of the Convention

Synergies between living heritage safeguarding and other UNESCO culture frameworks enhanced for strengthening policy development conducive to safeguarding living heritage for sustainable development and integrated cultural policies in Africa

Outputs

Capacities of States Parties strengthened at national level for preparing nomination files to the Lists of the Convention

Regional cooperation and networking developed among selected countries in Africa for strengthening their engagement in the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms

Capacities strengthened to identify the opportunities and challenges of creating synergies between the policy frameworks for safeguarding living heritage and those of other UNESCO culture conventions with a view to articulate them better in cultural policy design for safeguarding living heritage and sustainable development



Implementation strategy and approach

Approach

- **Capacity-building** at the national level on nominations, drawing from the global programme and its facilitators' network
- **Experience sharing**, peer learning and cooperation through regional gatherings.
- Encouraging the **integration of living heritage into culture sector-wide policies** and frameworks for sustainable development.



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Proposed partner countries

Core partner countries

- **No inscriptions** on the Lists of the Convention.
- They will be **involved in all** key activities (capacity building and peer-to-peer learning).

Country	Field Office	Additional info
Equatorial Guinea	Yaoundé	
Sao Tome and Principe	Yaoundé	SIDS
Gabon	Yaoundé	
Eritrea	Nairobi	LDC
South Sudan	Nairobi	LDC
Comoros	Nairobi	LDC and SIDS
Lesotho	Harare	LDC
Eswatini	Harare	
Guinea Bissau	Dakar	LDC

Other countries for sharing experience

- Significant or recent experience with the **international cooperation mechanisms** of the Convention.
- They will be invited to get involved in **peer learning**.
- Countries are being identified, may include: Cameroon (2 recent inscriptions), Kenya (5 elements inscribed), Côte d'Ivoire (5 elements inscribed), Nigeria (8 elements inscribed).

Main activities

Year 1 (2024-2025)

Desk-based review of inventories
in AFR periodic reports

Online meeting to seek feedback
by partner countries on the
project

Year 2 (2025-2026)

Regional exchange and capacity
building on nominations and on
synergies with other UNESCO
Culture Conventions

National training workshops on
preparing nomination files

Year 3 (2026-2027)

Peer-to-peer learning, networking
and cooperation activities

Development of policy
recommendations

Follow-up activities with country resource persons and country teams



Inception phase: 2024 and early 2025



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Inception phase:

- Gather relevant information on capacity-building needs.
- Seek the engagement of partner countries.

Steps undertaken (October 2024 to March 2025):

- **Desk-based research** on inventories in Africa (through the 44 periodic reports submitted) and interviews with national stakeholders. Preliminary identification of capacity-building needs related to the preparation of nominations to the Lists of the 2003 Convention.
- **Information session** with proposed partner countries to present the project and solicit their feedback on their needs and priorities for nomination.
- **Coordination** with UNESCO field offices in the region for the implementation of project activities.

Next steps



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Key activities foreseen for the first semester of 2025 include:

- Finetuning the project's implementation strategy.
- Identification of a project focal point per country.
- Global Training of Trainers on the updated nomination materials (June)
- Preparation for the implementation of the capacity-building activities, both at regional and national levels.