SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOOLBOX

A web-based toolkit of resources demonstrating the relationship between safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development

WHY THIS TOOLBOX?

This toolbox presents an online collection of resources that aim to provide further guidance on how to operationally link the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, with reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. States Parties of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage requested this guidance following the adoption of Chapter VI of the Convention's Operational Directives on 'Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level' (ITH/16/6.GA/7).

More examples are needed to show the reality of how this relationship plays out on the ground. While safeguarding intangible cultural heritage can contribute to sustainable development, achieving sustainable development in a community may also enhance the viability of its intangible cultural heritage elements.

Communities and groups should have the primary role in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage. The concepts, targets and terminologies of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) do not always resonate or translate readily into local community contexts and worldviews. Bearer communities do not necessarily frame the safeguarding of their intangible cultural heritage with sustainable development in mind and caution should be taken to ensure full respect for the meaning and purpose they attribute to their intangible cultural heritage.

The examples demonstrate how communities and groups transmit their intangible cultural heritage to address their basic needs, while providing them a sense of identity and continuity. Intangible cultural heritage is also a source of innovation and enables the development of creative approaches to respond to new challenges facing societies in constant adaptation.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLBOX?

Developed in the context of [UNESCO's global capacity-building programme](), the examples can be used for training workshops to complement other capacity-building materials on sustainable development (Unit 8). The toolbox is furthermore relevant to anyone wishing to develop a stronger understanding of the contribution of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development. This includes individuals who may be working in fields other than culture, but whose work may nonetheless play a role in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Members of the global facilitators' network developed the examples included in this toolbox. The examples are intended as a learning tool to illustrate and sensitize individuals to the way that safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development are interlinked and do not necessarily present an endorsement as 'best practices' by UNESCO. The examples are based on secondary research and references to further resources are cited where relevant. Disclaimer: UNESCO is not responsible for the validity of any of the information gained through using the links provided in this toolkit. Users should make their own enquiries as to the validity of the information. Users are also responsible for establishing any copyright connected with materials gained through using the following links. When in doubt, please seek clarification with the UNESCO Secretariat.

Referencing: Use of any published material sourced via this Toolkit, including material published on the internet, should always be referenced when used in correspondence or reports even if they are unpublished.

STRUCTURE

The toolbox presents examples for each of the themes and sub-themes of Chapter VI of the Operational Directives, including inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability and peace. The examples are based on existing research and from the Lists of the Convention. They were elaborated according to a short template, consisting of:

- **Keywords**;
- A **short description of the element**;
- The **link with sustainable development**, in the framework of the Operational Directives and the SDGs;
- **Questions for reflection** to trigger debate and bring the example closer to the reader's lived context.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

The toolbox is being developed using an iterative, multi-stakeholder approach. If you have an example you would like to contribute, please contact the Intangible Heritage Section for more information and the template to elaborate the example: ICH-capacity@unesco.org.