

Name of State Party

Saudi Arabia

Date of Ratification

2008-01-10

Please provide an executive summary of the report that will allow general readers to understand the overall status of legislative, regulatory and other measures taken at the national level to implement the Convention. This should follow the organizational structure of the form.

In 2019, the Ministry of Culture established 11 commissions in various cultural fields to lead and oversee cultural transformation in Saudi Arabia. Of these commissions, the Heritage commission has been given the mandate to implement the 2003 Convention in general, while the other commissions implemented specific ICH domains such as: Music, Museums, Culinary Arts, and Theater and Performing Arts. The Heritage commission recently worked on its strategic plan and established two major sectors within it to ensure the safeguarding and enhancement of ICH: the handicrafts sector and the ICH sector (other than traditional crafts) which focus on research, inventory, and safeguarding.

In addition, organizations have been established by the State Party to notably safeguard ICH in specific regions, such as the Royal Commission of Al Ula and The Diriyah Gate Development Authority. At the national level, research and documentation safeguarding measures are supported by the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives, and the Royal Institute for Traditional Arts which is committed to the promotion and the transmission of ICH, through various training programs.

During the last 5 years, there has been significant progress in ICH safeguarding in Saudi Arabia across the 13 Provinces of Saudi in collaboration with NGOs and the local community. Specific attention to raising awareness towards ICH has been given to help increase community participation as well as the involvement of professionals and various stakeholders. In particular, there have been 17 workshops on ICH inventorying based on community participation with an introduction to the 2003 Convention. As a result, approximately 1,280 elements have been inventoried and 11 elements have been inscribed on UNESCO's representative list of ICH for Saudi Arabia. Moreover in 2020, the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society was accredited by UNESCO under the 2003 Convention, making it the first accredited NGO of Saudi Arabia in the field of ICH and playing an integral role in the implementation of the 2003 Convention in support of the State Party.

There have been efforts from a legislative and regulatory point of view to support safeguard and raise awareness of ICH. In 2014, for example, the Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage Act was introduced as a legal measure to ensure the protection of cultural heritage – in particular the safeguarding of craftsmanship of

artifacts.

In the field of education, the Ministry of Education announced a Research and Development Program (RDP). The program covers various fields including cultural heritage. The impact of the RDP is reflected in research funds at the university level across the Kingdom. For instance, King Saud University offers scholarships to support research on ICH-related topics. It has also allowed for the development of Master of Science related to ICH management.

In addition, established on 05/18/1996, King Abdulaziz Public Library has a cultural administrative measure aims to achieve the dissemination and support of knowledge, culture and heritage, especially Islamic and Arabic ones, and supporting the movement of authorship, research, and translation.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc)

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Other relevant information

- Governmental institutions

The Heritage Commission (HC) which under the Ministry of Culture (MOC) is

the statutory body designated for the preparation of this report and mandated for the implementation of the 2003 convention in Saudi Arabia. HC was the focal point for coordinating among entities, groups and individuals involved and mentioned in the periodic report, this was an essential step to collect data and information needed to complete the report.

- Cultural centres

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) is a center which focuses on creating a cultural and creative experience for visitors through culture, creativity, community, art, and knowledge. With the visionary platforms, offering inspiring workshops, performances, and events related to ICH in Saudi Arabia.

- Research institutions

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies; The main role of the Center is to provide a knowledge platform that brings together researchers and research institutions locally, regionally and globally to produce original research in the humanities and social sciences, and to participate in scientific discussions and dialogue between different cultures.

- Universities

King Saud University under the College of Tourism and Antiquities, which has a major called Heritage Resource Management that formally educates students about ICH. Lectures and students from this program were part of the research process in the preparation of the report and data provided.

- NGOs

The Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS) an accredited NGO in the field of ICH collaborated with the Heritage Commission in the preparation of this report. SHPS established a dedicated research team consisting of 4 senior and 2 junior researchers and 2 ICH experts (local and international) familiar with 2003 convention, to analyze and extract the data and information collected to prepare the report. Also, the Association of Antiquities and History of Najran (GATN) and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Association participated by providing the list of activities carried out by the associations.

- Local governments

The government sectors that were invited to the workshop for their interest in inventorying the elements of the intangible heritage to monitor their efforts in protecting the intangible heritage and the elements registered in the representative list of the elements of the intangible heritage (Royal Institute of Traditional Arts, Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, Royal Commission for AlUla, The Two Holy Mosques for the Care of Cultural Heritage program, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Royal Reserve, Camel club, Music Commission, Culinary commission, Theater & Performing Arts Commission, Ministry of tourism, Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Ministry of Sport, National Competitiveness Center).

- Private sector entities

The following entities from the private sector participated in providing data and information to fill out this report. The Academy of Arabic Poetry, Creative Fingers for Association professions, Aldailam Association for Heritage and Culture, Heritage and Documentation Society, The Society for Heritage Awareness in Eastern Province, Desert Designs Company, Intangible Heritage Society, Saudi Telecommunication Company "STC", Mishwara Social Society, Al Kharj Heritage Association, Heritage Preservation Society in Al-Qunfudhah, Heritage Ambassadors Association, Al Hmdan Heritage Museum, Museum of Bygone Years, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture – Ithra, Art of Heritage organization, Saafah Foundation Transparency and Integrity and Qayasriat Al Kitab Riyadh and Saudi Society for Camel Studies.

Please provide any comments in the box below

Please provide in the box below observation(s), if any, on the above-mentioned information.

SHPS was established in 2010, as an idea from the local communities, experts in the field and academics. Since its establishment the Society has worked on over 19 projects in the field of ICH that ensure the participation of the local communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage through projects.

Please provide in the box below observation(s), if any, on the above-mentioned information.

None

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None

Please provide in the box below observation(s), if any, on the above-mentioned information.

None

Yes

Yes

Yes

Explain briefly how such bodies or mechanisms involve/encourage communities, groups and individuals in ICH safeguarding and management.

A number of institutes have training initiatives in the field of traditional crafts and cultural heritage.

Selysla was established in 2004 under Al-Faisalya Women's Welfare Society as a nonprofit organization which produces handmade crafts made by the local communities inspired by the traditional techniques and skills used in the past with a modern presentation. It promotes the safeguarding of the skills of intangible cultural heritage and provides a niche market for products to attract the younger generation.

The Herfah institute was created to preserve traditional handicrafts by providing training, promoting products and financing small businesses related to heritage and cultural craftsmanship. On the other hand, Herafia is a non-profit organization specializing in supporting small handicraft businesses, by training individuals to improve the marketability of their products, allowing them better access to the market.

Torathuna Social Responsibility Company offers various workshops regarding cultural heritage elements in different regions of the country. It is an integrated program that trains, supports, develops and finances entrepreneurs in the field of traditional handicraft.

In the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, the Palm Center for Craft provides a space for practitioners to work and hold workshops specialized in the skills and techniques of traditional handicrafts.

In 2015, The Jameel Houses of Traditional Arts was initiated in the western province of Saudi Arabia. It is a center for artisanship, heritage preservation and architecture. A pillar of Art Jameel's pioneering work is to preserve tangible and intangible cultural

heritage. Based on academic programs designed and delivered by the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts with the local communities and master practitioners, the Jameel Houses also offer open programs of short workshops, lectures, exhibitions, support for heritage-based entrepreneurs, and collaborations with artists and creatives that connect traditional crafts and heritage with contemporary materials and approaches and new technologies.

Yes

Describe briefly how the State supports such institutions, organizations and/or initiatives for documenting ICH.

The ministry of Culture has supported a number of initiatives (outlined below) financially.

Initiative 1

King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (Al-Darah) preserves and collects sources of Saudi history and has a big database of audio materials. The database has been used in many projects related to documenting intangible cultural heritage in several regions.

Initiative 2

The Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS) has received state funding for approximately 8 documentation projects. The aim was to document and inventory ICH in general and in the fields of performing arts, culinary arts and traditional crafts.

Initiative 3

The National Archive for cultural heritage initiative was established and funded by the Ministry of Culture. The aim of this is to create a platform for organizations and institutes to display their efforts in documenting culture and heritage, including ICH.

Are the documentation materials produced utilized to support the continued practice and transmission of ICH?

Yes

Describe briefly how the documentation materials are utilized for these purposes.

The produced materials are used to identify the challenges that face the local community in continuing the practice and transmission of ICH, as result research studies, initiatives, events and programs are created and supported by the state party to ensure the viability of the documented ICH.

The utilization of the documentation will involve the implementation of the project through the collaboration between the governmental sector, private sector and the involvement of local communities, practitioners, NGO's.

- Cultural centres

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture - Ithra:

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) develops and implements programs and projects for research, documentation, dissemination, and promotion of expressions of ICH and popular cultures. It includes a children's museum, library, cinema, theater and exhibition halls.

Crafts Innovation Center:

The Crafts Innovation Centers initiative, one of the goals of the "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Program to Preserve the Kingdom's Cultural Heritage", has been implemented by the Heritage Commission since 2017. It aims to establish and operate sites in all of the Kingdom's regions and develop craftsmanship by empowering craftsmen, training them to produce beautifully designed Saudi-inspired products while preserving the cultural heritage of the Kingdom.

- Research institutions

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies:

King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS) was established to serve as a platform to bring together researchers and institutions in order to preserve, publish and produce scholastic work. The center developed a unit called "The Saudi Memory" where they preserve & document Saudi oral traditions records recorded by: Professor Dr. Saad Alswaiyan, Ph.D in anthropology, performance arts, & oriental studies.

- Archives

King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (Darah):

Among the objectives of the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives are documentation, the production of audio-visual documentation and books, training in heritage management and the development of ICH safeguarding efforts.

- Libraries

King Fahad National Library:

One of the institutions that hold the bibliographic memory of Saudi Society as it holds a vast Saudi database as well as the national photographic archive. It organizes documents and publishes intellectual publications especially ones pertaining to Arab and Islamic civilization. The library is involved in documenting ICH elements

King Abdulaziz Public Library:

The King Abdulaziz Public Library constitutes a comprehensive knowledge

system in the context of the Saudi cultural space. Since its establishment in 1987, the main goal of the library has been the preservation and documentation of the Arab, Islamic, and Saudi heritage. The library organizes all media of intellectual production including books, periodicals, audio-visual materials, and manuscripts in order to provide library, translation and scientific publishing services in the fields of culture and heritage. One of the most important collections of ICH material is the creation of 30 encyclopedias of different regions of the country which are used for the investigation of Saudi cultural heritage.

- Others

Palm Center for Craft Industries:

Palm Center for Craft Industries provides a space for practitioners to work and hold workshops specializing in traditional crafts skills and techniques.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The areas of opportunity that are crucial to work on have been identified, and in this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the legal framework that governs the work of governmental bodies whose work is related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), particularly the coordination mechanisms that have been created specifically to follow up and pay attention to the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level. In addition to the corresponding harmonization with its various regulatory frameworks on ICH, it is crucial to foster closer ties with all levels of government. In this regard, the Heritage Commission's strategic vision for the upcoming years includes working through extensive partnerships at the local level. In addition, as the regulator of ICH practice and transmission, it is keen to launch and coordinate heritage-related regulations for the enhancement of transmission of ICH.

Yes

Describe briefly, using examples and focusing on the course content relevant to ICH safeguarding and management.

There is higher and graduate education in the field of ICH. Several universities provide courses in the field of heritage and ICH safeguarding.

King Saud University offers two degrees that include ICH: Management of Heritage Resources Degree, and a Tourism Degree that has modules on safeguarding ICH. King Saud University also offers a Master of Arts in Heritage Management. This MA

provides specialization in the field of heritage including ICH according to scientific and applied methodologies.

The Department of Tourism and Archeology at Hail University contains ICH related courses. These courses develop students' understanding of heritage management and research.

The university of Jazan offers courses in tourism which involve heritage tourism and how to integrate ICH into the tourism sector.

Al Deira School, established by the Royal Commission of Alula, provides a curriculum focused on traditional arts that include ceramics, textiles, jewelry, palm weaving, felt making, natural dyes, engineering and more. These training programs are 1 to 3 years long.

Finally, there is a plan to create colleges that specialize in traditional arts including visual arts, crafts, cultural heritage, museums and performing arts. The main objective is to preserve and maintain the national cultural heritage.

Do these programmes ensure inclusivity?

Yes

If yes, describe briefly how these programmes ensure inclusivity.

The Universities mentioned in the previous answer are public, free of charge and calls are open to both genders.

Yes

Describe briefly, using examples and focusing on the nature of the training offered and the body providing it.

In 2021, within the Ministry of Culture, the department of General Administration of Research and Cultural Studies launched a program aimed at increasing the number of Saudi experts in the cultural field. its aim was to build the capacities of these Saudi experts to work on projects related to UNESCO conventions and programs. In this framework, capacity building training programs were led by international ICH experts on the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level. They addressed various topics such as community participation, ethical principles, ICH and sustainable development, inventories, safeguarding plans, nominations to the lists, etc. There were 53 participants in this program and at least 25 in the ICH course, who each held a degree in different fields of culture and heritage. It is worth mentioning that some of these trainees were involved in the team that contributed to the drafting of this Periodic Report. The Culinary Arts Commission has launched a number of initiatives and projects to promote various careers in the culinary arts industry, with a focus on traditional food practices. The Commission has collaborated with the Vocational and Technical Training Foundation and conducted workshops on

Culinary Art Tours for tour guides working in the Jeddah region.

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts established courses, apprenticeships and provided training on the know-how of traditional crafts, from master practitioners to interested individuals, members of the community.

The national ICH facilitators have assisted in holding 7 community-based inventory workshops from 14-10-2020 to 14-11-2020 through online meetings as part of a partnership between the Ministry of Culture and the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society to introduce the community to the concept of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and the Convention's goals. The workshops covered all regions of Saudi Arabia to ensure all geographical areas were considered.

Do these programmes ensure inclusivity?

Yes

If yes, describe briefly how these programmes ensure inclusivity.

A number of the training programs or workshops were conducted in multiple regions across the Kingdom. The programs are open to the general public allowing for inclusion.

Yes

Describe briefly, using examples and focusing on the training offered and the organization providing it.

In Najran, the Association of Antiquities and History created multiple initiatives for members of the local community, more specifically craftspeople. These initiatives include a traditional crafts workshop, the "Najrani Cooking Festival", and "Shibana", an initiative that aims to document and preserve traditional games. These initiatives include training programs aimed to promote and safeguard ICH by raising awareness of inventory and research. Many of those involved are older members of the community in Najran.

Between 2014 and 2022, the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society delivered 10 ICH workshops on inventorying based on community participation and an introduction to the 2003 Convention.

Do these programmes ensure inclusivity?

Yes

If yes, describe briefly how these programmes ensure inclusivity.

All workshops were free of charge, provided in multiple regions around the kingdom, open to all age groups and genders.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State is planning on establishing vocational training programs focused on heritage and to promote the management of intangible cultural heritage in the territory. The Heritage commission will promote training and capacity building through the creation of a long-term master plan for the supply and demand of specialized talents in the heritage sector.

Also, the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts has signed MOU's with the Royal Commission of AlUla and Dariyah Gate Development Authority to integrate the graduates from the Traditional Mud building program in the restoration process of the Heritage sites. This will allow the transmission and continuity of the practice through practical implementation of the vocational training.

Yes

Describe briefly, using examples and referring to capacities built/strengthened, the training provider and the participants (incl. age and sex).

There are several capacity building programmes addressed to communities and practitioners.

In addition, the Heritage Commission is creating an inventory of ICH which includes training on ICH concepts and methodologies for local practitioners and bearers. This will provide a wider network of community members involved in the process of inventorying ICH in Saudi Arabia.

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts offers vocational education and learning, and aims to support practitioners with opportunities for international collaborations, research and knowledge sharing. There are also short courses for students of all genders and ages in different handicrafts.

In Riyadh, the Department of Education provides training addressed to the local community and younger adults on ancestral home renovations and on heritage sustainability.

The Royal Commission for Al-Ula has established Al-Deria School involving local artists in the region of Al-Ula to provide training in traditional arts. The school aims to be the home of an important training program in traditional arts run by the Prince Foundation, School of Traditional Arts, and Turquoise Mountain Foundation. It is aimed at craftspeople and practitioners, mostly women, as well as young adults in the area.

The Ministry of Tourism working with Turquoise Mountain Foundation has helped artisans across the Kingdom build capacity, upskill and repurpose their handicrafts to be used in different settings e.g. using traditional pots as display items in hotels.

Do these programmes ensure inclusivity?

Yes

If yes, describe briefly how these programmes ensure inclusivity.

Many of the organizations that arrange training ensure wide participation and access to the activities promoted. These training opportunities are open for all, however there is no legal framework to ensure inclusivity.

Are any of these training programmes operated by communities themselves?

Yes

Provide examples of such trainings, describing the involvement of communities in operating these programmes

In Najran, the “Shiban Project” is run by the Association of Antiquities and History. It aims to promote the continuity of practicing popular traditional games as well as other customs and traditions in the region and involves members of the local communities, especially the elderly.

The other training programs mentioned above are developed with the involvement of local communities, groups, individuals and practitioners of the ICH elements.

For example, at the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts, all training is provided by master practitioners in their field of expertise.

The heritage sustainability program led by the Department of Education in Riyadh was co-developed with families in the community.

Yes

Describe briefly, using examples and referring to capacities built/strengthened, the training provider and the participants (incl. age and sex).

There were several capacity building programs addressed to those working in the fields of culture and heritage.

In 2017, in an effort to strengthen the capacities of those working in the field of intangible cultural heritage from different regions in the Kingdom, a workshop was held on inventorying ICH. The workshop was presented by a professional in the field and hosted by the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society.

In 2020, the Saudi Preservation Heritage Society (SHPS) and the Royal Institute of Traditional arts developed two training courses for people working in the field of culture and heritage. The first was on the different UNESCO conventions and programs and their relevance to the field on a national level, and the other was on the process of involving the local communities in inventorying ICH.

In 2022, SHPS delivered a training program for chefs working on documentation projects of traditional dishes in Saudi Arabia. This program included ethical principles of communicating with the local community in the documentation process and the methodologies needed to collect data while respecting the customary practices of the practitioners.

In addition, the business incubators led by the Misk Foundation and the Culinary Arts

Commission include ICH awareness to reach people who aim to work in the field of cultural heritage.

Do these programmes ensure inclusivity?

Yes

If yes, describe briefly how these programmes ensure inclusivity.

The announcements are typically public open calls for all who are interested with the goal of ensuring participants diversity in terms of age and gender.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State established the goal of satisfaction for the next reporting cycle as there are larger efforts from entities to establish training aimed at communities, groups, and individuals working in the field. With the establishment of commissions in various cultural sectors, more resources and tools are available to achieve better objectives including fostering partnerships with local community representatives and NGOs to better understand the strength and weaknesses in terms of training offered.

- formal education
- non-formal education

Yes

Explain briefly how practitioners and bearers are involved in these activities.

Practitioners and bearers are actively involved in the presentation and transmission of their heritage through many initiatives across the different regions of the Kingdom.

For example, local troupes of Ardh Al Najdiya (dance, drums and poetry from Saudi Arabia) teach music and dance to the younger generation in the schools of the region, with the participation of teachers. The practitioners, while performing on the occasion of the National and Founding Day, train students in its practice.

The bearers of Al-Qatt Al-Asiri (traditional wall decoration made by women in the Asir region) teach various audiences including the younger generations the contemporary use of their art to decorate homes, buildings and handicrafts (furniture products, gifts...).

Other initiatives involving bearers and practitioners in presenting and transmitting their ICH include the performance of storytelling arts or Arabic calligraphy workshops.

In addition, on Social Media platforms of the Ministry of Culture called “MOC engage” practitioners are involved in the production of artistic works and media that

present the diverse ICH of the Kingdom's regions (such as the sailor's call to the sea, playing the sesame chords, singing in the name of the homeland and performing arts during the national holidays and other occasions). The platform also launches initiatives which teach students performing arts, including theater techniques, and the use of traditional fashion.

Finally, practitioners and bearers under the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts will be involved in designing and developing ICH education programmes. They will actively present and transmit their heritage by giving short courses, apprenticeships and academic programs specialized in traditional arts and cultural heritage.

Yes

Explain briefly, using examples, how such modes and methods of transmission are included and/or strengthened.

In most traditional crafts, when transmitting new techniques, the practitioners focus on teaching the old methods to the younger generations. This is to ensure that the practice and know-how are passed on, for example when teaching the skill of weaving al-Sadu even though modern techniques have been developed.

The Arabic calligraphy workshops within the cultural activities of King Abdulaziz Public Library (2019) are an interesting example. These workshops teach various types of calligraphy and the different instruments used: the inkwell, the feather that bears the name of the plants whose stems are used. These traditional calligraphy techniques are taught before the new ones.

Yes

Explain briefly, with examples, how these programmes strengthen ICH transmission and who provides them.

Over the past years, educational programs have been developed to support the transmission of ICH in Saudi society.

For example, Zadk, a culinary arts institute, provides education programs and courses, encouraging the local community to pass on traditional food from master practitioners to new generations.

The training programs held by the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts have created programs which are offered by the local communities that practice the ICH, for example the traditional mud building, the weaving of Al Sadu and the Art of painting Al-Qatt Al-Asir. Due to the limited training capabilities of the practitioners, they are accompanied by professional trainers, which assist them in offering these programs. Similarly, an initiative of the Thadiq Education Office teaches the younger generation the importance of social events and the practice of traditional greetings, aimed at transmitting social values.

Sloom Ahlana' is a program carried by a cultural association in Al-Ahsa and supported by the Heritage Commission, which teaches students art, culture and heritage. In addition to vocational skills, the students are also taught customary practices, the values, and the expressions for various social occasions.

The above programs receive financial support from the government.

Provide additional details here of the nature of any support (financial, technical, in-kind or other) they receive.

The Ministry of Culture provides technical support to heritage institutions and NGOs for monitoring programs, courses and workshops related to ICH, as well as to the Saudi Guiding and Tourism Association. For example, the Ministry of Culture has a unit called the Society's Unit, which supports NGO's with logistics (office supplies, venues of events and open channels of communication with relevant entities.

No

Provide additional details here of these training programmes, in particular the methods taught and the target audience.

Largely
Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

Many examples of educational programs involve bearers and practitioners such as local performing arts troupes, artisans, and craftspeople. It is of interest in the upcoming years to activate and develop more extensive educational extracurricular activities for students and teachers in formal and non-formal education. The Ministry of Education is currently developing the curriculum to include cultural heritage, and more precisely intangible cultural heritage. The Department of Cultural Capacity Development in the Ministry of Culture aims to involve middle and high school students in a music cultural project that engages them in comprehensive music education using electronic content.

- As a stand-alone subject

Intangible Cultural Heritage is not included as a stand-alone subject in primary and secondary education curricula.

However, the Curriculum Development Center has launched an initiative to include Intangible Heritage in school curricula, especially that which is inscribed on the UNESCO lists.

- As a means of explaining or demonstrating other subjects

Although it is not a stand-alone subject, ICH is integrated into primary and secondary education as it is included in the content of particular disciplines. For example, in the fourth grade, in the subject of social studies, students have a brief introduction on intangible cultural heritage in Saudi Arabia as part of the section on citizenship and national culture. This contributes to

educating the young generations in knowledge and respect for their own ICH and for that of others.

Yes

Explain briefly, with examples, how school students learn this.

The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Saudi Ministry of Culture, launched the "Intangible Cultural Heritage" initiative in Saudi schools. Participation in this initiative is open to middle and high school students, male and female from all over Saudi Arabia.

The timeline for the initiative is structured in six stages. The first begins with the launch phase, introduction and raising students' awareness of the importance of this heritage and the need to document it. Then, applications are received and processed in order to form teams. Workshops are implemented, followed by the reception and evaluation of the initial research by the supervisors and experts. Finally, exploratory visits to the field are organized, during which the works that achieve the objectives of the initiative will be awarded.

The Ministry has identified the intangible cultural heritage categories in the scope of the initiative. These categories include folk performing arts; traditional oral expressions in their multiple forms of folk tales, legends, proverbs and poems passed down from generation to generation; rituals, the various social activities practiced by a particular community such as traditional games; the traditional craft that distinguishes a region, the tools used in its manufacture and its connection to heritage; traditional food and the way it is presented.

The Ministry of Culture will provide students with all the necessary support to conduct their research according to solid methodological foundations. The Ministry will work with teachers and activity leaders in public education schools to support participating students.

The initiative aimed to develop the research capabilities of both male and female students documenting intangible cultural heritage and obtain outputs and contributions, fostering respect to ICH.

Yes

Explain briefly, with examples, how school students learn this.

Private and international schools in Saudi Arabia have many students from different backgrounds, nationalities, and religions. Students learn to respect differences, cultural diversity, and human rights. On open days in particular, students get to present their food, clothing, and culture.

- Mother tongue education

Mother tongue refers to the first language acquired by a person, generally at home and transferred by the mother. In Saudi Arabia, Arabic is the mother tongue of all Saudis, although the country is rich in different Arabic dialects.

In Saudi Arabia, Arabic has always been the base of education in public and private schools. It is the first and primary language spoken and taught in schools. As a support to this the International Day of Arabic language was dedicated to the initiatives that support the mother tongue of Saudi Arabia which falls on eighteenth of December each year.

On the other hand, The Kingdom's Vision 2030 confirmed its investment in safeguarding the Arabic language and the need to the ICH practices relevant to the Arabic language like Arabic Calligraphy as an essential part of the components of the Saudi national identity.

- Multilingual education

Apart from Arabic as the primary language, in Saudi Arabia, English is also taught in public and private schools. In other words, the Saudi educational system could be considered bilingual. In addition, due to the variety of non-Saudi communities that live in the country, these communities also want to teach their customs and traditions to their children using their language as a vehicle of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Thus we find American, British, Indian, Pakistani, Korean, Filipino, French, Italian, Indonesian international schools and other nationalities that make up multilingual education and bilingual education. In these schools, students are taught their curriculum in addition to Arabic.

- Inclusion of 'local content'

Schools introduce the local content of ICH in Social Studies subjects including social practices, Performance Arts and Traditional Crafts.

Also, schools have annual extra curricula activities which include cultural days where students display different aspects of their cultural heritage and practices to other students.

Yes

Briefly explain, giving examples, how educational programmes teach this

Saudi Arabia has various educational programs that teach about protecting natural and cultural spaces whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

This is a practice relevant to the knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe "Leave No Trace" is a certification and a course for students to protect natural spaces during hiking, giving students the opportunity to enjoy nature by ensuring the natural sites are protected.

Hammayah is a program where Park Rangers in Al-Ula get trained in protecting natural resources necessary for local communities' ICH practices such as falconry, camel herding, cultivation and agriculture. The program includes training individuals

from local communities, to preserve cultural, historical, and natural heritage, help promote awareness and encourage direct and effective community participation among the younger generation of Al Ula and Khyber Governorates. Furthermore, it aims to develop the capacities of young people in the community to be ambassadors in the preservation of natural and cultural heritage and to promote a sense of citizenship, social responsibility, and community service.

RITA, the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts has an educational program in renovating mud houses, which focuses on using natural resources in renovating historic buildings and monuments including one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites, Traif, which is a full city built from mud.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State understands the importance of the linkage of the Cultural sector with educational entities, and in this regard the "Intangible Cultural Heritage" initiative in Saudi schools, aims to educate students about the kingdom's intangible Cultural heritage and provide students various tools and resources to document intangible cultural heritage following the UNESCO methodology. The State will continue to encourage and provide education and teaching that promotes adaptation of content to local contexts. It will also continue to strengthen capacity building initiatives especially to bearer communities to manage and preserve their heritage. Saudi Arabia also recognizes and intends to promote awareness and transmission of intangible heritage in formal educational settings by incorporating local or regional intangible heritage teaching into the school curriculum.

- Music

Post-secondary education institutions still need to offer a curriculum and degree in traditional music.

However, music is part of the training offered to students to know how to perform "Al-Ardah Alnajdia" on National Day and Founding Day. Indeed, this training includes the music accompanying this traditional dance, and involves practitioners as well as teachers.

- Arts

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts promotes traditional arts including performing arts by developing performing skills, raising awareness of heritage, and disseminating culture. This is achieved through training and educational programs in traditional arts by offering short courses,

apprenticeships and specialized academic programs in traditional arts and cultural heritage.

For example, Asiri Qatt is the art of decorating the walls of houses in the province of Asir, which is on UNESCO's Representative List. There is a course presented by The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts to familiarize students with the history of Asiri Qatt and the significance of its decorations and colors. Trainees become familiar with the manufacture of traditional colors, associated tools and materials, and their application in works of art, enabling them to maintain interest in traditional art.

In addition, the department of education for students (girls) activities in Jeddah, introduced a cultural forum in Arabic calligraphy and its aesthetic values through scientific papers, presenting several specialists and experts in this creative craft in Saudi Arabia. This raised awareness of its value as an Arab cultural heritage and emphasizes the importance of learning Arabic calligraphy and its impact on one's personality.

- Crafts

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts works to represent the culture of the Kingdom by narrating the artistic history of traditional artworks and the stories of the artists, in addition to safeguarding the know-how of these crafts and encouraging the transmission of the practice to those who are willing to learn them.

Its stones come in bright and vibrant colors, and their specifications must be studied before they are crafted creatively. The craft teaching course offered by the Institute introduces the main carving techniques and provides an overview of the Kingdom's geology, archaeology, and early historical eras. The course also focuses on the opportunities offered by the craft of stone engraving, the revitalization of old traditions, and the creation of distinctive designs.

The skills of Palm Arts can be learned and mastered at the Institute. Indeed, palm knitting, and weaving are one of the oldest and most well-known traditional arts in Saudi Arabia. This program introduces and explores Al-Saff; students start with learning basic weaving techniques and then gradually create more challenging pieces of work.

- Technical education/training

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts offers an apprenticeship program in the traditional construction techniques (mud house building) that provides knowledge and skills related to the Kingdom's architectural heritage. The program reviews properties and selection criteria of building materials and soils, methodologies of traditional mud construction, and safety and security

at construction sites. It also introduces the regulations and legislations in managing traditional construction projects and restoration methodologies and techniques.

In addition, the Traditional Weaving (Sadu) apprenticeship program provides essential knowledge and skills about this craft. The apprentice will learn the basics of the craft, its history, tools, and materials. The apprentice also applies traditional weaving and knitting skills in developing bespoke Sadu products.

- Vocational education/training

The Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) is a government agency concerned with technical and vocational training in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since 1980. TVTC specializes in the development of national human resources through training, which contributes to filling the labor market's needs of manpower. The training programs presented involves a few domains including wood works, culinary arts, and traditional craftsmanship.

In 2015 in a partnership between Art Jameel and the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts, the Jameel House of Traditional Arts in Jeddah is a major educational programme that focuses on the traditional craftsmanship of training on the skills of woodwork of traditional windows. For 5 years the school had around 20 participants annually, which are trained by master practitioner's of the craft.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how these programmes and degrees relate to the study of ICH.

Saudi Arabia has a wide range of higher education in social sciences and humanities in public and private institutions, which offer many tools to approach and study Intangible Cultural Heritage.

At King Saud University, College of Tourism and Archeology, three subjects are being taught for the bachelor's degree;

- Intangible heritage management
- Traditional crafts and traditional industries
- Craft management and traditional industries.

There are also several modules taught within King Saud that are outlined below:

- Management of intangible cultural heritage
- The development of traditional food in the Kingdom
- Heritage and Art
- Management and marketing of traditional crafts

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State recognizes there is an opportunity to grow in the areas of developing and promoting specialized education in heritage. There is currently a strategy goal from the Heritage Commission to introduce the sector and concept of living heritage to local communities through relevant local organizations, locally and nationally. After its implementation, the aim is to support education for local communities by starting heritage sector educational programs and providing scholarships for talented students. In addition, it will coordinate with relevant authorities to promote this sector. It is also a goal to make academic programs inclusive for the bearers in communities and cover the greatest diversity of fields in ICH study.

Fully

Explain briefly, giving examples, how these inventories are oriented towards safeguarding of ICH. If you have answered 'Not at all' or 'Minimally', explain what obstacles you face in having them do so.

Identifying not only viability and threats but modes of transmission, safeguarding measures already in place, the inventories mentioned in A.6 have used a holistic approach to ensure the safeguarding of ICH in its diversity across the Kingdom, identify best practices, strengthen safeguarding plans and create opportunities for cooperation between the State and private entities as well as local practitioners. Such inventorying processes have built bridges of communications between local communities, governmental entities, and NGOs, which is an important objective to preserve ICH.

One of the main principles of the inventories is the element status of viability, taking into consideration possible threats some elements may encounter such as, lack of knowledge transmission to future generations.

Additionally, some inventories inspire the launching of ICH events (such as the Saudi Feast Food Festival based on the Culinary Arts Inventory), providing bearers with a space to practice and raise awareness of the elements including in inventories and of the importance of ICH safeguarding.

Fully

Explain briefly, giving examples, how these inventories reflect the diversity of ICH. If you have answered 'Not at all' or 'Minimally', explain what obstacles you face in so doing.

Saudi Arabia covers 90% of the territory of the Arabian Peninsula which witnessed the spread of multiple civilizations and cultures. Some of those civilizations and tribes still have their local communities living in the territory of Saudi Arabia. These local communities have indeed diverse Intangible Cultural Heritage. For this reason, the inventories listed in section A6 cover all regions of the Kingdom, with the different cultures of local communities, as well as all domains of ICH (performing

arts, oral traditions like storytelling, crafts, social practices, culinary practices, etc.), highlighting and reflecting the richness and diversity of ICH passed down from generation to another.

Diversity is a landmark of Saudi ICH inventories which acknowledge the value of each element that has been listed. This builds community cohesion and initiates communication between practitioners across the country.

Yes

Based on your response in section A.6 Inventories

, explain how such specialized inventories and/or inventories of various scopes contribute to the safeguarding of ICH and reflect its diversity

The Culinary Arts Commission is specialized in traditional food practices and an instrument for safeguarding culinary heritage in its original and traditional context. It covers all regions, thus illustrating the diversity of these practices across the Kingdom. This inventory gives rise to events and social activities like the Saudi Feast Food Festival held in December 2021 which was based on the inventory of culinary arts in the Red Sea regions, and allowed practitioners to share their experience, their knowledge and skills with local communities and younger generations, contributing to safeguarding.

Also, the inventory (Torouq) created by the performing arts commission is specialized in the field of performing arts which displays the diverse performing arts found in the regions of Saudi Arabia.

Also, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Royal Natural Reserve Development Authority is a specialized by geographical location and parameters of the reserve.

Largely

Based on your response in section (f) and (l) of A.6 Inventories

, explain the method(s) of updating the inventories, giving examples of how those take into account and reflect the current viability of the inventoried elements.

Heritage Commission is the National ICH registry was previously a mandate of the Ministry of information, and with the establishment of the Ministry of culture and the Heritage commission the transfer of the inventory is under progress. The updating according to a guide developed on the process of documenting and inventorying ICH by the Ministry of Culture will be every 2 years.

The Saudi culinary inventory is regularly updated every 3 years. The inventory pays close attention to the current state of the elements and any present or potential threats they may encounter.

The Red Sea Development Company inventory has just been established this year (2022) and an updating system is currently being developed.

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) updates their inventory on an

annual basis based on the events and research programs taking place that are relevant to the ICH elements on the list.

Theater and Performing Arts Commission inventories are updated every 5 years, workshops are held with the local communities concerned to give input on the status of the element.

The Saudi Heritage Preservation Society inventory is updated every 4 years. New elements are added as a result of community-based inventory workshops held on a regular basis, where the status of the element is discussed, as well as possible threats or challenges in continuing to practice the element.

The Culinary Art Commission inventory is in constant state of inclusion of new elements, the update will be done of the list is complete
Partially

Based on your response in section (o) of A.6 Inventories

, explain briefly, giving examples, how this is accomplished.

The ICH inventories are internal documents belonging to the entities and are not accessible to the public yet. In cases when researchers require access, there is a process of requesting access. The process entails signing a document in which researchers commit to not share the information due to the inventories containing sensitive information i.e. information of people and practitioners.
Largely

Explain briefly, giving examples, how the ICH inventories are utilized to strengthen ICH safeguarding. If you have answered 'Not at all' or 'Minimally', please explain what obstacles you face in having them do so.

The Ministry of Culture encourages the utilization of ICH inventories as an essential tool for the implementation of any safeguarding measures in national projects, events, and research. It indicates the vital role of ICH inventories and how they serve as guidelines to fulfill the needs of local communities and help them to safeguard their ICH. Also, access is granted to whomever requires information through a regulating process.
Largely
Largely

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The Commissions under the Ministry of Culture, the Heritage Commission, the Culinary Arts Commission and Performing Arts Commission have succeeded in creating specialized inventories, on the other hand, the National Heritage Archive is

currently under development which will improve and facilitate registration tools. The National Heritage Archive is necessary to deepen our vision of the diversity of ICH by improving the availability of documentation in all cultural fields. The national archive will be available as an online digital system, and will also assist in completing data collection for the next reporting cycle.

Large

Based on your response in section (p) of A.6 Inventories

, explain briefly, giving examples, how this is accomplished.

Inventory lists were created with the participation of the local communities and NGOs, for example through workshops organized on a regular basis as in the case of the inventory carried out by the NGO Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, with the aim of involving them in safeguarding the elements listed.

In the framework of this periodic report NGOs were appointed to conduct questionnaires to governmental entities, the private sector, local communities, groups, individuals to determine the national efforts to preserve the intangible cultural heritage of the Kingdom. This targeted Individuals, local communities and relevant NGOs in the field of ICH throughout the Kingdom.

The questionnaire found that more than 42% of the inventory initiatives were promoted by local communities, individuals and NGOs; other inventories of governmental entities largely depend on local communities and NGOs participation in safeguarding plans.

There are various examples of local communities and NGOs participation in inventories of specialized scope. King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Royal Reserve Development Authority is drawing up an inventory of ICH in the protected area, including performing arts, melodies, and oral traditions. The process of inventory receives a major participation from local communities of Hail, Tabuk, Al-Jawf, the northern border, and other NGOs, such as Saudi ICOMOS and related non-governmental organizations. Another example is the inventory of oral traditions in Al-Ahsa by the Heritage Commission. The local community of Al-Ahsa participate inclusively in the inventory and transmit oral traditions and expressions to younger generations. The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) works on conducting brainstorming sessions with the local communities and the practitioners of ICH to investigate the elements required for the inventory.

Fully

Based on your response in section (q) and (r) of A.6 Inventories

, explain briefly what measures are taken to ensure respect for diversity of ICH and its practitioners as well as gender inclusiveness in the inventorying process.

The inventorying process takes into consideration the diversity of ICH and its practitioners in the different regions of Saudi Arabia, from different tribes and cultures, highlighting cultural diversity. These include practices, performing arts and expressions. The inventorying process respects all genders, considering the

importance and equality of all genders play a complementary role to build a society where each gender respects the other. The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) is keen to inventory from different regions to include all ages and genders.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The National Heritage Archive will involve strategies to engage and ensure community participation from all sectors (governmental, public, NGOs, and academic institutions). The involvement of representatives of the regions in heritage around the country is a fundamental part of the Heritage Commission's strategy in the inventory and updating process based on criteria placed by the National Heritage Archive.

- Research, scientific, technical and artistic studies

1. legal support

Culture in the Basic Law of Government in the Kingdom issued by Royal Decree No. (A / 90) and dated 27/8/1412 H corresponding to 1992
Chapter Five: Rights and Duties

“Article 29: The State shall sponsor science, literature and culture. It shall promote scientific research, preserve the Islamic and Arab heritage and contribute to the Arab, Islamic and human civilization. “

2. financial support for research

Sources of research financial support are available from relevant governmental entities for scholars, academic staff, graduate students, and specialists in the ICH field.

The Ministry of Culture has launched a Cultural Scholarship program, the program is designed for individuals interested in pursuing research in different topics including intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.

The program contains;

- 1- A full scholarship which includes tuition costs, financial support, student living expenses and companions, health insurance, and travel costs between the Kingdom and scholarship's location for the student and one companion.
- 2- Guidance and assessment programs to ensure students' academic development during the program, and support in various other aspects needed for students' advancement.

The Ministry of Education has announced a Research and Development Program (RDP), a total budget of 6 billion Saudi Riyals has been allocated to the program. The program covers various majors including cultural heritage.

The program focuses on:

- 1- Defining the roadmap for how the Research and Development ecosystem will be strengthened.
- 2- Clarifying how the program will be governed in order to ensure collaboration from stakeholders.
- 3- Prioritizing the initiatives defined in the roadmap based on the ministry goals.

The impact of RDP is reflected in some research funds at the University level throughout the Kingdom. For instance, King Saud University offers research funds from 12,000-30,000 SAR for researchers in the field of cultural heritage including ICH topics. This is a program offered by the college of Archaeology & Tourism.

- Documentation and archiving

In Taif, the Heritage Commission has set up an information center on ICH in cooperation with local associations, where cultural managers of these local associations and community members can find resources and tools for documentation and awareness of ICH. This initiative contributes to strengthening existing efforts for the safeguarding of ICH.

Yes

Describe briefly the research conducted, in particular the impacts studied.

The Ministry of Education (Universities and institutes) and NGOs have conducted research in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage safeguarding.

e.g.

- 1- Through an effective approach to the practice of traditional woven work in local communities, it has been suggested that the geometric and vegetal patterns of Al-Qatt Al-Asiri have a tangible impact in textile styles: it enhances the practice of woven work in fashion while maintaining its traditional decoration and local value. The inspiration of Al-Qatt has led to a competitive fashion line and positively impacted practitioners' financial resources and raised awareness among younger generations.
- 2- A holistic review of Saudi Folk heritage investigated the diversity of oral poetry and music throughout the Kingdom and how it is transmitted from one generation to another. The findings suggested this means of transmission was effective in passing on values.

Yes

Describe briefly the nature of practitioners' and bearers' participation and how their consent is secured.

When involving the local community in research studies, verbal and written consent is secured, with prior information on the objectives and goals of the studies being conducted.

Practitioners participate by being involved in focus groups and consultations about traditions and for reports on ICH.

Also, as part of the inventorying process, research is conducted with the local communities in the province from which the elements originate.

For example, the local community of museum owners, historians, writers, poets, and coffee practitioners are involved in documenting the element “coffee” and its associated practices and customs with Al-Ahsa community: oral traditions from Nabataean stories, folktales, poems, proverbs and songs

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The preparation of this report has been aided by identifying the diverse efforts undertaken by different institutions to document and research various ICH topics. There is acknowledgment of the vital documentation and research conducted by academic institutions. It is important to continue and further develop through mechanisms for knowledge and experience sharing that will enable the improvement of techniques, instruments, and tools. The Heritage Commission’s main objective is to strengthen collaboration with bearer communities, groups, and people to increase their involvement in different research, documentation, and safeguarding monitoring activities, while also strengthening the systems that ensure the communities' awareness of their heritage.

Some

Provide any additional details here.

“The Saudi Memory unit” is a collection of the King Faisal Center and Islamic Research and Studies. The unit contains more than 900 sound recordings of the most prominent narrators and poets from the desert. It aims to preserve and document the cultural, social, artistic, tangible and intangible heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is available to researchers in the fields of historical, social and cultural studies.

Otherwise, there are several examples of individual initiatives focused on specific provinces which results are accessible to communities. For example, the self-documentation of traditional games and performing arts in the Jazan region is publicly available; another example is 'The 'Riyah Al-Ardiya' a voluntary initiative by an individual to document the ICH of the Najd region which is accessible to local communities. Likewise, the documentation of folktales and myths in the Al-Baha region is accessible to local communities and writers upon request.

Limited

Provide any additional details here.

The research and studies department in the Ministry of Culture utilizes the studies and results of ICH research to unify the policies and methodologies regarding documenting and archiving cultural heritage including ICH. Through the guide, the Ministry of Culture seeks to provide a reference that helps entities document cultural elements and archive them digitally, through specific and clear steps that comply with international standards and best practices, in order to ensure unification of efforts in defining and documenting Saudi cultural heritage, improving coordination between the various stakeholders in the cultural system, and facilitating the nomination of these cultural elements to considered international lists, such as the World Heritage List, the Representative List, the Urgent Safeguarding List, and the Good Practices Register within the framework of the agreements signed by the Kingdom.

Some

Provide any additional details here.

The results of research and documentation of ICH improve its safeguarding. For example, the documentation of traditional games and performing arts in the Jazan Region enables effective safeguarding plans and practices with the participation of the local community. The documentation of the ICH of the Najd region through the initiative "Riyah Al-Ardiya" is available to researchers, architects and fashion designers who contribute to its promotion and enhancement.

Access to this knowledge is shared with:

- 1) local communities and groups, to review and validate documentation, enabling them to correct or modify information according to their perspective.
- 2) researchers of ICH to develop safeguarding plans in cooperation with local communities through consultations and meetings.
- 3) public society to raise awareness of ICH.

Partially

Largely

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

Many organizations have worked hard to establish research on intangible cultural resources that include technical and creative research, documentation, and studies. It is a significant contribution that improves the network of knowledge-bearers, groups, and people who serve as knowledge sources. The State has recognized the importance of promoting research, documentation, and studies in the different fields of intangible cultural heritage, and it is essential to implement measures that will encourage research and increase accessibility to research and documentation findings.

Yes

Yes

Describe briefly the strategies and/or action plans and how they contribute towards safeguarding ICH.

The Heritage Commission recently worked on its strategic plan, which includes 8 strategic pillars guiding the Heritage Commission's vision and approach towards all types of heritage in order to enhance the heritage sector in Saudi Arabia.

The first strategy ensures the preservation and management of cultural assets and heritage sites including the documentation and promotion of ICH elements, such as poetry and Arabic calligraphy, heritage food, traditional music and dances, folklore and national rituals, and traditional craftsmanship.

In fact, the Heritage Commission has established two major sectors within it to ensure the safeguarding and enhancement of ICH; the Handicrafts Sector and the ICH sector (other than traditional crafts). In particular, the ICH sector within the Heritage Commission has its own strategy which focuses on two major themes that are research and inventory, and safeguarding.

Another national strategy is the creation and implementation by the Ministry of Culture of a guide for the documentation of Cultural Heritage and Digital Archiving. This effort reflects a national guideline to support the implementation of documentation and archiving projects by organizations or individuals. The guide aims to help overcome obstacles encountered in documentation and archiving efforts and its goal is to build the national inventory and archive so that these are a reference for the public, researchers, and practitioners. Moreover, the guide provides assistance for the identification, documentation, and archiving of cultural heritage assets or elements. It also involves the implementation of a consistent approach and coordination and collaboration between the stakeholders involved. Furthermore, it provides national standards and guidelines for documentation, and digital archiving. The guide calls for strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration among different stakeholders and practitioners and encourages community and public engagement and participation in the identification and documentation of cultural heritage .

Yes

If yes, provide details.

As part of the heritage commission's first strategic plan in which the documentation and promotion of ICH elements such as traditional music and dances are ensured, there are several plans designed for specific elements, as for instance, the construction of a national institution that highlights all forms of Al-Ardah (traditional dance of the central region) in the Kingdom, and the art of Al-Majarir performance in the Makkah region e. Another example is the establishment of the Saudi Coffee Expert License to promote and contribute to the safeguarding of the Saudi Coffee as a specific ICH element.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, the nature of the support provided and how equitability is ensured.

The Cultural Development Fund intends to enhance the sustainability of cultural sectors by supporting cultural activities, facilitating cultural investment and improving the profitability of the sector.

The fund targets private sector enterprises, associations, institutions and NGOs working in the 16 cultural sectors (including Heritage sectors) sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and provides services to the heritage industry.

The fund includes the Cultural Projects Incentive Program which supports all cultural sectors through different funding mechanisms, designed to strengthen the cultural sector in various fields, such as content development, education and training, infrastructure support, distribution, marketing of cultural outputs, operation of cultural facilities or digital transformation of the cultural sector. The Fund also seeks to activate the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the cultural sector. The Fund provides beneficiaries with funding and guarantees, as well as special programs to stimulate projects. The program has requirements and is subject to mechanisms for monitoring the performance of the work plans, The Fund team supports applicants and beneficiaries at all stages, to ensure maximum benefits and public interest for the sector and its members. The Fund also provides non-financial services such as legal and financial advice, training workshops, business facilities and coordination with other government entities.

In general, the heritage sector has received about 7% of total funds while music received 19%, performing arts received 5%, and culinary arts received 9% - much of which relates to ICH. The cultural development fund has provided funds for the development of a number of ICH elements such as knowledge and practices related to traditional craftsmanship, traditional culinary arts, and traditional music and dancing. In particular, Al-besht Alhasawi (the weaving of 'Bisht' Saudi attire) has received support to ensure its safeguarding and sustainability.

Yes

Please explain how this is done or, if not, why this is the case.

Al-bisht Alhasawi mentioned above was in need of urgent safeguarding. Through this fund a grant was given to create a center to teach this traditional handicraft of sewing and encourage the continuation of Al-Besht Alhaswai.

In addition to the above example, the Ministry of Culture has an open communication channel for NGOs in the field of cultural heritage, through which NGO's can raise concerns about certain elements in need of urgent safeguarding.

Limited

Explain briefly, giving examples, how these policies and/or measures are informed by the active participation of communities, groups and individuals.

The revised Copyright Law at the Intellectual Property Authority was influenced by a number of workshops and focus groups held with creatives and artisans in 2018. One of the main concern raised by the community, which affected their ability to

continue working, was plagiarism and the lack of clarity on copyright law. This informed the copyright law.

Largely

Largely

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

Important advances have been made in the field of ICH, including the creation of the Heritage Commission, which is the official state body in the field of heritage preservation. The Heritage Commission with the appropriate entities and organizations will be coordinating heritage-related regulations and implementing appropriate rules and regulations. These efforts include the project of documenting, activating and revitalizing the role of cultural councils in Saudi social and cultural life, which would help safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage. The Heritage Commission will increase their efforts in providing resources and information related to intangible heritage and in building comprehensive policies that address all the important aspects of ICH.

No

No

No

Not satisfied

Partially

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

With the advancement of the dissemination of organizations and entities such as the Ministry of Education, the Heritage Commission is working on developing and enhancing legal and administrative measures in education, such as reflecting diversity of ICH in the curriculum, producing educational materials, and starting educational programs in the heritage sector. As mentioned previously, The Heritage Commission will increase their efforts in providing resources and information related to intangible heritage to various entities and building comprehensive policies that address all the important aspects of ICH.

The Culinary Arts Commission has established administrative measures contributing to ICH education and transmission, by contracting with international culinary institutes to further develop the skills of the younger chefs and include dishes from the Saudi culinary heritage on restaurant menus.

The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education are exploring the implementation of extra curricular activities in schools in the field of ICH.

Yes

Provide additional explanation, indicating the sector involved.

Saudi is developing a number of giga projects all over the kingdom, every organization is required to have a heritage and culture department which also includes a section for community engagement to ensure the ethical principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage are respected in the development plans of these projects. The organizations involved are from the governmental sector working with the private sector and NGO's to implement these plans with the participation and engagement of the local communities in the areas.

Yes

In which of the following themes, policies and/or legal administrative measures have been established or revised?

- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

The ministry of environment, water and agriculture have policies and criteria for the best practices of agriculture and cultivation in Saudi Arabia. They have launched documents which allow farmers and practitioners of cultivation open access to the policies and criteria for safe cultivation and best practices on the website of the ministry.

This allows the continuity and viability of the practices, skills and techniques of cultivation.

No

Provide any additional details

Yes

In which of the following themes, policies and/or legal administrative measures have been established or revised?

- Income generation and sustainable livelihoods

The Social Development Bank has established an administrative process for productive families and small business owners in the field culinary arts and traditional crafts.

<https://www.sdb.gov.sa>

- Productive employment and decent work

The initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture 'Baladi Platform' was developed in

cooperation with various municipal sector entities to be the national portal supporting the municipal community. The aim of the portal is to help practitioners and other individuals who may find it difficult using online portals and obtaining licenses which would affect their ability to work in ICH related jobs.

- Impact of tourism on ICH safeguarding

The tourism development fund managed by the ministry of tourism supports projects that highlight traditional heritage including ICH and promotes local tourism.

Yes

Yes

If yes, explain how measures or incentives ensure the availability of natural and other resources required for the practice of ICH.

For example, the ministry of human resources and social development has created committees in all regions of Saudi Arabia to support families of craftsmen, home cooks, and traditional artists. The fund financially supports these families which helps them continue practicing and transmitting ICH

Largely

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

Inter-sectoral cooperation is a key element in ensuring that ICH issues are addressed at all levels of government and across society through legal and administrative measures in fields other than culture and education in order to reflect the diversity of ICH and the importance of its safeguarding. The formulation of agreements to solve ICH issues allows for more effective action by all stakeholders in these areas, and in this regard the Heritage Commission is creating inter-sectoral cooperation, including the formulation of agreements to solving ICH issues.

Yes

Provide any details with regard to (a) intellectual property rights and (b) privacy rights.

(a) The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, which is the entity responsible for intellectual property protection, enforcement and empowerment in Saudi Arabia, has established a legal system called 'Geographic Indicators Protection Policy'. This policy ensures the protection of intellectual property rights for ICH products of the

communities and individuals (agriculture, food, craftsmanship, etc.) related to a specific geographical location. The policy allows communities and individuals to register any ICH product to protect its intellectual property.

(b) In terms of privacy rights, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has put in place strong personal data protection laws and policies to safeguard Users' privacy and sensitive data. The personal data protection law (Royal Decree No. (M/19) dated 1443/2/9 AH), ensures privacy and data protection.

No

Explain briefly, giving examples, how policies and/or legal and administrative measures recognize this.

No

Explain briefly, giving examples, how policies and/or legal and administrative measures recognize these.

Partially

Largely

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

Regarding intellectual property, Saudi Arabia is developing legal frameworks that use digital techniques to identify and manage assets. In addition, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property is developing a distinctive sign for products and elements that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. These geographical indicators are expected to advance the legislation concerning ICH and the local practicing communities.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how they do so.

ICH contributes to the sustainable development of the local communities, in particular at the economic level. Many practitioners and their families use these activities as their main source of income. It is worth noting in particular that home-based businesses ensure income to women who traditionally dedicate themselves to family care work.

Broader initiatives make it possible to reinforce the importance given to these activities and their safeguard, which benefit the communities. For example, the Hajar Souk Festival takes place in the historical city of Hajar, in Al-ahsa region. It was first organized in 2010 and still occurs annually to the present day. The festival generates internal tourism, and contributes to revitalize the local economy, in particular through the implementation of cultural activities, the sale of local foods

and artisanal products by the bearers and the local communities.

Another example is the Home-Businesses Gathering that was first held in 2015 in Al-Baha region. It was devoted to displaying handicrafts and local foods made by home-based businesses, mostly run by women, thereby providing job opportunities, while helping to promote local industries.

Beyond the economic dimension, these festivals above all foster social cohesion among communities. They strengthen the self-esteem and the sense of identity of the bearers, thus contributing to their well-being.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how they use their ICH for one or more of these purposes.

One of the ICH elements inscribed on the Representative List (with UAE, Oman and Qatar) is the majlis. The majlis is a traditional place to gather. The culture of gathering at a majlis helps improve bonds between communities.

Whenever there is a conflict, it is customary practice to gather at a majlis and talk things out between the groups.

In addition, the customs and traditions of serving Arabic coffee (Qahwa) also promote peace building. For example, when the cup is filled with little coffee it signifies that the host wants the guest to stay for longer and allows the host to refill the cup.

This customary practice improves mutual respect and peace building between groups.

Moreover, in order to produce the traditional patterns of Qatt al asiri, the ladies of the community come together to help decorate the house of one of them. This promotes social cohesion and strengthens bonds between groups and individuals within the communities.

Yes

- As a source of identity and continuity

There are development interventions in schools through the inclusion of Alardah dance in school programs. These are taught by Ardah Al Najdiya experts and target aged 15-18.

The Ministry of Education in Al Nahda has created a mini exhibition featuring traditional costumes. The aim of the initiative was to preserve and identify traditional clothing for students and connect them to their ancestors, which supports the sense of identity and continuity of younger generations.

Similarly, an initiative of the Thadiq Education Office teaches the younger generation the importance of social events and the practice of traditional greetings, aimed at transmitting social values.

- As a source of knowledge and skills

There are some examples of how development interventions recognize the importance of ICH in society as a source of knowledge and skills.

For example, an initiative launched by the West Girls Education Office encourages families to restore mud houses, teaching them techniques and the use of tools. All sections of society are encouraged. It is a sustainable initiative to preserve and teach heritage.

An interactive festival involving all crafts in the Najran region includes the training of artisans and the rehabilitation of crafts as well as the support of projects that maintain the continuity of craftsmanship.

- As a resource to enable sustainable development

There are a number of programs that promote sustainable development, for example recognizing the benefits of traditional mud building techniques and how important it is to adapt to harsh environments and contributing to limiting climate change issues related to unsustainable architecture and provide sources of income for practitioners of traditional building techniques.

Another example is the traditional palm weaving in al Ula, which is a good practice in recycling palm leaves and creating traditional handicrafts.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The Heritage Commission is tasked with unifying efforts between public and private sectors to the extent that the importance of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is recognized both by the communities, groups, and individuals concerned and by society in general. It is important to note that community participation is fundamental to the success of this commission. The goal of the Heritage Commission is to increase actions that promote ICH. The commission will introduce the sector and concept of living heritage through a Media campaign, promoted on the National and International level. It will also support education within local communities.

- People of different ages

The Al-Ahsa Children's Traditional Games Festival is a festival geared towards raising awareness and involving young children in order to preserve customs and traditions.

There is also a Heritage TV show and contest, a series that focuses on educating children about arts and crafts. Older people are involved in designing the contents of these programs; information is also collected from museum owners, heritage scholars, the Ministry of Information and the Heritage Commission.

- People of different genders

There are ICH safeguarding programs that contribute to gender balance, such as the First Productive Families Forum, dedicated to the display of different types of crafts in 2015 in the Al-Baha region. It brought together 40 practitioners male and female from all over Saudi Arabia, showcasing unique products and aiming for sustainable development.

The Forum works with the local community and associations and governmental agencies, in favor of men and women's development in the field.

It creates job opportunities for the community, develops their skills and promotes their work to larger communities.

- Persons with disabilities

On the occasion of the National Day (2022), the King Salman Center for Disability Research presented an initiative in partnership with Saudi Research and media groups.

It consists of delivering the sound of the national anthem through the technology of converting sounds into electrical vibrations so that deaf people can experience the sensation of the Saudi anthem.

The Authority of Person with Disabilities has held 6 annual festivals in theater, which aims to integrate persons with disabilities (PwDs) into social, cultural and artistic events and activities. It also works towards providing opportunities for PwDs to pursue their dreams and showcase their talents in the theatrical arts.

Yes

Explain briefly how they foster self-respect within and mutual respect between communities, groups and individuals, providing examples.

The safeguarding of ICH, by encouraging participation, favor dialogue and exchange of knowledge between communities, groups, individuals, and social segments.

Their mutual interactions and their contact with public administration generate reflections that contribute to strengthening their sense of identity and belonging , promoting the improvement of self-esteem and respect for cultural differences. It is

reaffirmed that traditions foster mutual respect and cooperation, using strategies and actions tending to encourage the dialogue as the meetings of practitioners.

For example, in 2015 the “First Productive Families Forum” took place in the Al-Baha region.

The forum included 40 craftsmen from different regions of the Kingdom.

It was dedicated to the display of various types of crafts and handicrafts products from each region and from different families. The forum showcased innovative and new products, in addition to the productions from each craftsman.

Largely

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

In the coming years, the State is working to strengthen its safeguarding plans and programs. Awareness actions are an important part of these efforts, as they promote self-respect and increase community identity. These actions also highlight ICH as a factor of intercultural dialogue, as well as inclusive plans and programs.

This will be aided by “Vision 2030” that was launched in 2016 and aims to transform Saudi Arabia into an advanced economy with sustainable growth through social development and innovation. This campaign encourages all Saudis to be active citizens who help their country progress through innovations and new ideas that can help improve life quality for all citizens regardless of gender or background.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how participation is ensured. If it is not, please explain why.

Within the Kingdom there is a strong sense of involving communities, noting them as subject matter experts and mobilizing them in awareness projects or initiatives.

The different commissions and authorities within the Kingdom were asked through a questionnaire to list initiatives related to ICH. From the list of approximately 180 initiatives, there were approximately 60 noted examples of awareness raising activities that involved the participation of the concerned communities, groups or individuals.

e.g. There was an initiative in which a restaurant was created to preserve traditional food of the Al-ahsaa region, in the process, locals were asked to participate in helping pass on the knowledge and consulted on how the restaurant should be created. Also, in the Al-ahsaa region, the community was asked to participate in the documentation of the Hasawi rice. The community was involved in documenting what made this rice unique, the cultural and social value of the rice and how it is cultivated and prepared.

Another initiative aimed at documenting and safeguarding oral expressions in the Al-Baha region. Elders were asked to participate in sharing folktales and explain the significance of oral traditions to researchers, novelists, playwrights, anthropologists and local community.

Finally, whenever events or exhibitions are held aimed at introducing the local community to the traditional crafts that exist in the kingdom, these initiatives ensure the involvement of local artisans. Among these numerous exhibitions, one example is the project carried out by the Royal Commission of Al Ula. The Commission has created a 'handicraft suite' in which artisans were creating traditional crafts live in front of visitors. The event allowed visitors to engage and initiate a dialogue with the local artisans.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how their consent is secured.

There are 2 forms of consent, either written or verbal. The process usually involves members being briefed on the initiative, their potential role in it and confirming whether or not they would like to participate.

Example

-The community managed Riyadh dates market where local products were sold directly to consumers with the aim of preserving and promoting the food culture of the local community. In this initiative, the local community has engaged freely and verbal consent has been given.

Yes

Explain briefly, giving examples, how these mechanisms protect the rights of communities, groups and individuals and their moral and material interests during awareness raising activities.

The Heritage commission has implemented a system whereby all master practitioners have to be financially compensated for their efforts in the various initiatives. However, this system is only in place for artisans and not in other areas of ICH; furthermore, there is no systematic mechanism that protects moral and material interests.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, what mechanisms exist to facilitate their active engagement. If 'no', please explain why not.

Partially. Although there is no systematic mechanism to guarantee the active participation of young people, there are many examples of their involvement in awareness-raising activities.

Young people were thus introduced to the traditional theater, the university students also learned to dance the Al-ardah dance for the Day of the Foundation. There have been collaborations between universities, the heritage commissions and the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, in training students through internships and training programs.

One such competition to engage children, with dramatic and comedic content, aimed to 'mime' the arts and skills of heritage and crafts.

Yes

The Heritage Commission launched a national initiative that aims to educate male and female students from all over the Kingdom about the Saudi intangible cultural heritage to preserve its transmission amongst generation after generation, by working with teachers to motivate students to conduct desk and field research in this field, the initiative enables teachers to create research teams consisting of students under their supervision and support. Selected participants submit their research, then selected researchers are granted a reward based on a final evaluation by a committee. This ensured the interaction of the younger generation in researching and further understanding ICH of Saudi Arabia.

Yes

Explain briefly, giving examples, which ICTs and media are used for awareness raising and how they are used.

With the participation of the local communities information is shared on social media for example MOC engage, the Ministry of Culture and the 11 cultural commissions have active twitter and instagram accounts which allow practitioners to display their ICH practices to promote and raise awareness.

Participation of local communities in television and radio shows and segments dedicated to culture and heritage, are used for awareness raising of the intangible cultural heritage of the communities concerned.

In addition, the Culinary Arts Commission has created a visit experience using virtual reality technology. Thus, a film was created to help raise awareness of culture and heritage, viewable via a VR headset.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The Heritage Commissions of the Ministry of Culture are all working on launching awareness campaigns and capacity building programs that will raise the importance of ICH, and to engage communities, groups, and individuals in their own heritage. Launching community outreach campaigns, launching the main marketing campaign for heritage, cooperation with giant projects, universities and other organizations in the kingdom, and launching programs that target the youth are some examples of actions that will be taken to raise awareness of the importance of ICH.

- Raise awareness of the importance of ICH and its safeguarding?

There have been social media campaigns initiated by individuals and tv channels in the local community raising awareness of ICH, as well as cultural programs as cooking shows on traditional culinary practices, touristic programs highlighting Saudi heritage, and game shows on culture and heritage.

Another example is competitions aired on television for children and young people with dramatic and comedic content that showcased heritage arts and crafts.

There have also been radio broadcasts in which intellectuals discuss the ICH. In addition, the Saudi Cultural Channel launched in 2010 was dedicated to raise awareness on the culture of Saudi Arabia including ICH, till 2018. There could be more done on this for example having clear strategies in place or initiatives focused on raising ICH awareness. At the moment, media involvement is usually linked to specific events.

- Promote mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals?

The King Fahad Library, for example, produced the television program "Cultural Reviews", which is broadcast on Saudi television, Channel One. The idea of this program was to host a group of writers, thinkers and intellectuals from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries who review and debate, through analysis and criticism, many issues related to heritage and culture, including intangible, in its diversity on the Arab and international scene.

Yes

Describe, using examples, such joint cooperation activities or programmes.

Annually Saudi Arabia selects an ICH element to be the year of. For example in 2020-2021 the Ministry of Culture launched a nationwide campaign announcing the year of Arabic calligraphy. 15 initiatives were launched in collaboration with various entities like King Abdulaziz Library, Prince Mohammed Bin Salman International Center for Arabic Calligraphy, Quality of life program, Saudi Scientific Society for Arabic Calligraphy. This media campaign had activities, programs, events and awareness raising to highlight the importance of Arabic Calligraphy and the connection to the Arabic language.

Describe in particular any capacity-building activities in this area, with examples.

The MBC academy is a platform linked to the MBC channel, created for teaching media related fields, and one of the courses is dedicated to film making and

documentaries where a number of graduates have created films on the ICH of Saudi Arabia.

- Is inclusive

All media programs in Saudi Arabia target families and there are special programs dedicated to men, women, youth and children as cooking or game shows. Also, some cartoons are developed using cultural heritage concepts.

- Utilizes language(s) of the communities and groups concerned

Saudi television is in Arabic which is the mother tongue of all Saudis, although the country is rich in different Arabic dialects.

In addition, ALSahhrah media channel established since 2007, is dedicated to poetry and poets, holding many shows that highlight Arabic language and skills of poets through competitions in Saudi Arabia.

- Addresses different target groups

In 2019, the Saudi Telecommunication Company (STC) launched a media campaign called “Unveil Saudi” targeting photographers to capture Natural, Cultural and Intangible heritage across Saudi Arabia, using a hashtag #هاذي_السعودية on twitter for photos and YouTube for videos with more than 100 videos made on various fields of ICH.

High

Provide any additional explanation.

Since the inscription of the first Saudi National file in 2015, there has been an increase in the use of the Convention’s terminology. The terms Intangible Cultural Heritage, safeguarding measures, transmission and dissemination are being used in projects and workshops held by organizations implementing the convention thus reflecting the concepts and terminology of the convention through their media platforms.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The media are an essential tool for raising awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage. In most cases, intangible heritage elements are transmitted between family members and within the communities themselves. These informal methods of education play an essential role in the transmission of heritage to the younger generation. Special attention to risk factors that may threaten the safeguarding of intangible heritage must be considered in the future. It is first necessary to implement a training and awareness campaign on the various conditions and realities faced by the groups and individuals who are the bearers of ICH. This will make it easier for the media to cover the ICH subjects. In addition, it is imperative that they participate as ICH partners and communicators of deep and meaningful knowledge if the issue is to be adequately addressed and in a way that is relevant to everyone.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how policies and programmes do this.

Partially. This is often the case, particularly in the field of traditional crafts, however efforts must be made to systematically cite credits when it comes to bearers who transmit knowledge or contribute to research.

In King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), the "Ithra" center is an initiative of Aramco, and therefore follows it in all laws and administrative systems. Before displaying any source, Ithra worked to ensure the correctness of the information by searching for reliable sources and communicating with experts and specialists in the field. In Ithra, taking into account copyright and intellectual property are a must, which is an integral part of the center's policies.

Describe in particular measures to ensure that they do so inclusively.

All efforts are done publicly and include all genders, age groups of the community.

Yes

- Communities, groups and individuals

A number of specialized festivals are organized concerning ICH elements, these festivals are community based and considered as traditions held annually, for example the dates festival in Qassim which provides a traditional market and opportunity for farmers to bid on their annual stock, Kelejah festival is also an annual gathering and opportunity for productive families to display their skills, techniques and creativity in this traditional sweet. Moreover, there are a large number of community ICH events related to fruit and vegetables according to agricultural seasons.

- General public

Most ICH-related events are held for the general public. For example, ICH and

its importance were highlighted through an artistic night in 2016-2017 centered on the enhancement of oral traditions of the master practitioners of traditional music and song showcasing the artistic creativity of cultural and heritage and the integration of different generations through various performances.

- Researchers

The research sector continues to structure and strengthen in Saudi Arabia. A few ICH programs or initiatives - rare at the moment - have been carried out for researchers. For example, during the Saudi feast food festival, organized by the culinary arts commission in Riyadh, a space was created for researchers, producers and companies to exchange knowledge and encourage innovation and development in this field.

- Media

In 2015, a press conference event was held to announce the inscription of “Al Ardah Al Najdiya” as Saudi’s first National file to be inscribed on the Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List. The event was for all relevant stakeholders from Governmental, Private and NGO sectors and individuals that were part of the nomination. The event also highlighting to the media the importance of the inscription and the implementation of the safeguarding measures in place.

- Other stakeholders

As part of this periodic reporting process, 5 workshops were conducted from February to March 2022. 3 workshops were in-person and involved contact persons or liaisons from governmental agencies, private entities, and NGO's. Each workshop was 3 hours in length, the first half included an introduction to UNESCO, the 2003 convention, the Periodic Report, and the 5 fields of ICH. The second half went deeper into the thematic areas of the Periodic Report, the final part was an open Q&A. 97 focal points from entities attended the workshops.

The remote workshop included anyone interested in ICH including researchers.

There was also a media campaign by the Heritage Commission that posted the platform with the survey on their social media pages.

Yes

Explain briefly, giving examples, how such programmes are encouraged and supported.

The royal institute of traditional art encourages the promotion and dissemination of good safeguarding practices in several cities of Saudi Arabia, starting by establishing the first institute in Riyadh, then Jeddah and Dammam, hence disseminating good practices in the transmission of knowledge, skills and techniques of traditional handicraft.

Yes

Explain briefly, using examples, how public information on ICH promotes this.

Most entities promote the culture and heritage of the diverse communities we have in Saudi Arabia, many social media accounts promote ICH publicly, displaying the variations of similar ICH elements found in the different provinces of Saudi Arabia. For example, the Culinary Arts Commission launched a public introductory guide about Arabic Coffee in Saudi Arabia highlighting the history of coffee, the customs and traditions of serving the coffee and the similarities and differences in preparation across provinces.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

In order to contribute to raising awareness about ICH significance, social function, and contributions to local development, common well-being, and mutual respect, directed not only to the bearer communities, but to the population in general, it is essential to design a strategy that allows the incorporation of the principles and objectives of the 2003 Convention in public information channels in a wide and extended way. The involvement by the Heritage Commissions of many parties, including NGOs and private initiative, will be taken into account and aided while developing this plan.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how the Ethical Principles are respected in awareness-raising activities.

The ethical principles are respected in awareness raising activities, the Kingdom has a diverse culture among its provinces, when displaying ICH in events and activities the cultures diversity and the identities of different communities are fully respected.

Yes

Describe briefly how professional codes and standards are respected in awareness-raising activities.

The heritage commission is also putting in place codes to frame relations with craftspeople in awareness raising activities, ensuring their financial and logistical rights are being met and not taken advantage of.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State recognizes that it is crucial to develop a dissemination and collaborative work strategy that emphasizes the ethical principles of the 2003 Convention in order to make sure that the ICH is treated in a comprehensive manner. As mentioned, the Heritage Commission in partnership with the public, decision-makers, and ICH practitioners will cooperate in awareness campaigns that highlight and showcase the ethical principles of the 2003 Convention.

Some

Describe briefly, giving examples, how community, group and individual participation is secured.

The heritage commission - Al-Ahsa branch worked on "Preparing the underground water spring in Al-Ahsa".

The project involved establishing 3 underground springs in Al-Ahsa (Ain Al-Hara, Ain Umm Sabaa, and Ain Al-Gawhariya). The local community participated by providing engineering studies and logistical support.

The aim was to preserve the water springs and the associated ICH practices with the participation of the community and to develop them as a pole of attraction in Al-Ahsa, relying on cultural and heritage components.

The water springs were made available to the public and activities and programmes have been set up to engage the community in safeguarding ICH, through history and heritage components.

The heritage commission - Al-Ahsa branch also worked on an initiative to create a heritage hostel called "Derwaza Hostel".

The hostel is available to the community and visitors. The community was involved in sharing and transferring the heritage designs, presented in a contemporary and modern character.

Describe in particular measures to ensure that this is inclusive.

The underground water springs have been made accessible to all, as well as the hostel.

High

Explain briefly, giving examples, how NGO and civil society participation in ICH safeguarding is ensured.

There are few non-profit organizations and associations in Saudi Arabia dedicated to the safeguarding of the ICH. On certain occasions, the government establishes partnerships with NGOs to carry out inventories, studies, events for the recognition of specific intangible cultural elements, or even to carry out safeguarding actions aimed at recognized elements. For example:

The Association of Antiquities and History in Najran (Gatten) is a non-profit entity which has cooperated with another non-profit organization, the “Culture and Arts Association”, and the Ministry of Culture (Heritage Commission). They established “The First Craftsmen Festival in Najran” and the “Najran Cooking Festival”. “The First Craftsmen Festival in Najran” focused on activating all crafts in the Najran region through an interactive festival that includes training and qualifying craftsmen to achieve sustainability by developing projects that maintain the continuation of craftsmanship and craftsmen.

The aim of the “Najran Cooking Festival” was to celebrate all traditional food in the Najran region and implement a comprehensive Najran cooking festival.

Some

Describe private sector participation in ICH safeguarding briefly, giving examples, and explain how the Ethical Principles are respected.

The involvement of the private sector in the safeguarding of the ICH is quite good. There are some private sector entities that are involved in ICH and specialize in heritage and community awareness through initiatives, projects and events. Examples of these entities and initiatives include the following:

Dar Al-Funoon Wa Al-Torath Center is a private entity that initiated the creation of an educational, cultural and entertaining heritage museum.

The objective is to introduce visitors to the national heritage through exhibitions and publications, with the concern for the continuous maintenance of the national heritage, especially the unwritten heritage and the ICH. The initiative aims at developing and improving the preservation of cultural heritage while informing the public about it.

The State has adopted and funded the initiative, which is currently being implemented as part of the important initiatives of Vision 2030 by the Arts and Culture Association and the Ministry of Culture.

In Al-Ahsa, the Derwaza hostel initiated by the Heritage Commission is available to the community and visitors. The aim was to stimulate investment in heritage through the establishment of an environmental hostel in a heritage architectural style in relation to the environment of Al-Ahsa, and to the materials used for construction in the region.

Largely

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The safeguarding of cultural expressions is a process that requires the active participation of all social actors. This target aims to assess the extent to which ICH can be promoted by the different stakeholders through the data collection process that has been implemented for this report and identify the challenges they face. To this end, it is important to continue conducting awareness-raising workshops, especially for younger people in order to highlight the role that ICH plays in sustainable development and support the establishment of bearer networks.

Yes

The Heritage Commission and the Ministry of Culture have been working on multiple initiatives to be developed with the communities, including all technical aspects to help monitor ICH safeguarding programs and measures and initiate technical and artistic studies. Communities, groups and individuals can contribute to monitoring and undertake scientific, technical and artistic studies on ICH safeguarding programs and measures through these working groups and initiatives. For example:

The Culinary Arts Commission established the first professional association in the culinary arts. The Culinary Arts Association supports professionals and experts in this field by creating networks in order to secure job opportunities. Through the Culinary Arts Association, professionals in the field are able to monitor and implement different ICH safeguarding programs and measures.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how NGOs and other civil society bodies can monitor and undertake scientific, technical and artistic studies on ICH safeguarding programmes and measures.

There are various tools available to NGOs and heritage associations, and there is an enabling environment for these organizations to monitor and undertake studies on the safeguarding of the ICH. For example, the “Saudi Memory Unit” hosted by the King Faisal Center for Islamic Research and Studies provides important resources for such NGOs’ initiatives.

It aims to preserve and document the cultural, social and artistic heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both tangible and intangible, in its various written and oral expressions, through archives, books, video and audio recordings, produced by members of the community and researchers.

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, how scholars, experts, research institutions and centres of expertise can monitor and undertake scientific, technical and artistic studies on ICH safeguarding programmes and measures.

There is an enabling environment for researchers, research institutions and centers of expertise to monitor and undertake technical and artistic studies on ICH safeguarding programs and measures.

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies created an initiative called “The Saudi Memory Unit” aimed to preserve and document the cultural, social and artistic heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both tangible and intangible, in its various written and oral expressions.

Furthermore, it aims at studying this heritage from an anthropological perspective, in order to provide all the information needed to researchers in the fields of historical, social and cultural studies, and presenting it as a research material in a way that contributes to its sustainability.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The national reporting mechanism and tools utilized for this report will strengthen civil society and NGO contributions to monitoring ICH in the years to come. The mechanism will be expanded and policies implemented to create a space for different entities, including academic and other actors to be part of the monitoring process.

The Heritage Commission has already put forth the goal of expanding the monitoring processes, while also making the results more accessible to aid in the next reporting cycle.

- Bilateral level

The Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council works through joint projects, including for the ICH. for example the festival and events that display similar or joint cultural heritage between both countries.

- Regional level

The General Administration for Research and Cultural Studies, under the Ministry of Culture, supports the implementation of all agreements ratified, by creating opportunities, initiatives and programs addressing regional issues of ICH safeguarding and the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the Expert Program held in 2021-22 by the Ministry of Culture, included candidates from countries in the Gulf and the Republic of Yemen. (The aim was to build the capacities of experts to work on projects related to UNESCO conventions and programs. In this framework, capacity building training programs were led by international ICH experts.)

The King Abdulaziz Public Library produces a cultural review program that hosts writers, critics and intellectuals from the region specializing in culture and heritage, tangible and intangible.

- International level

Saudi Arabia has organized or participated in international events contributing to the awareness and promotion of ICH, to the exchange of information and practices, and therefore to its safeguarding.

The designation of the cities of Buraidah and AlHasa as members of the Creative Cities Network allows for promotion and international collaboration on traditional knowledge and practices. For example, Saudi Arabia participated in Expo Dubai 2020, providing scientific advice, research resources, and information in different fields, including food. In addition, many local bearers were invited to showcase their practices, including dance troupes.

The King Abdulaziz Public Library took part in the Beijing Book Fair (China) in 2019, offering lectures and documentation training on the latest knowledge management systems and library techniques that contribute to safeguarding ICH.

Saudi Arabia participated in the international exhibition in the field of crafts, folk foods, and performing arts called l'artigiano in fiera (in Milano, Italy), and ICH cooperation was fostered through exchanges of experiences, and linkage and dissemination activities.

Several regional stakeholders in Aseer, including the Culinary Arts Commission, Al Suda Development Company, the Saudi Heritage Preservation Society, Qoot Society and Faseel Society, prepared the nomination file for the World Regions of Gastronomy awarded by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (Spain).

The aim was to empower local communities by raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding and promoting a distinct regional food and culture as part of sustainable and balanced tourism and development strategies. In addition to helping promote Aseeri traditional food on a global level, this nomination has fostered international exchanges and cooperation.

- Bilateral level

The King Abdulaziz Public Library has cooperated with the British Museum in an exhibition on the Hajj and Umrah, its rituals, and their meaning in the culture of Muslims in the region.

The Saudi Ministry of Culture has signed a memorandum of joint cooperation with the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen in response to preserve Yemen's cultural heritage and support of cultural initiatives in Yemen including ICH practitioners like the practices related to traditional building.

- Regional level

Saudi Arabia participates in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) heritage exhibition which includes ICH, with countries in the Arab and gulf region.

- International level

Saudi Arabia took part in several international events allowing to promote ICH elements and share knowledge and skills for their safeguarding. In addition to Saudi Arabia, 15 other countries from Asia and Africa participated in the international falconry submission. Many joint meetings were held for the preparation of the submission. The Saudi Wildlife Authority has participated in the International Festival of Falconry in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Another example is the 6th World Culinary Tourism Forum, supported by the SHPS (Saudi Heritage Preservation Society), which was held as part of the World Tourism Organization Forum: the Culinary Arts Commission contributed to discuss sustainable tourism and the ecosystem of Saudi coffee production.

Saudi Arabia also participated with a pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Italy, to promote Saudi coffee internationally. Saudi Arabia has participated on a regular basis in the International Palm Date Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to promote the practice of the traditional cultivation of dates.

Yes

Explain briefly, using examples, how such exchanges operate, their purpose(s) and outcome(s).

Since 2011, Saudi Arabia has 6 multinational files inscribed on the UNESCO representative list for intangible cultural heritage. Throughout the years safeguarding measures that have been successfully implemented at the national level have been exchanged between the countries.

Also, for 30 years Saudi Arabia has held “Al Janadriyah”, a Culture and Heritage Festival annually till 2019, which hosts the intangible cultural heritage of the GCC countries and a different international country every year to display their Heritage in a pavilion. This festival has allowed the countries to develop different ways of promoting their ICH through events.

Yes

Describe any relevant case(s), naming the element and the other State(s) Party(ies) involved.

Satisfied

Satisfied

Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The State aims to actively participate in more bodies of the 2003 Convention and gain and exchange experience and knowledge with international collaboration with extra regional partners. There will also be continuous effort through ALESCO and other regional networks to develop and strengthen the existing regional and bilateral cooperation domains.

Yes

Yes

Describe briefly, giving examples, specifying the partners involved and how networking is encouraged and supported.

Art Jameel founded the network of Jameel Houses of Traditional Arts in Cairo (Egypt), Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), and on the Dumfries House estate in Scotland in collaboration with the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts. These important educational institutions support young artists in creating cutting-edge designs based on ancient traditions, preserve the cultural heritage of traditional arts and crafts, and assist graduates in using their skills to launch their own businesses. In 2021, the Ministry of Culture and General Administration of Research and Cultural Studies organized a program of workshops on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, in cooperation with ICCROM Sharjah and international experts from the UNESCO facilitators network for the global capacity-building program. Alongside the Saudis were participants from the Gulf Cooperation Council Nations and the Republic of Yemen, involved in different fields of culture and heritage.

Yes

Satisfied

Satisfied

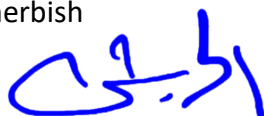
Briefly explain why the State decided to establish this target for the next reporting cycle and how it will try to achieve it. In doing so, you can refer to the specific aspects and assessment factor(s) for this indicator that the State may wish to address:

The Heritage Commission has been working with international partner countries and heritage agencies in order to exchange knowledge and cooperation. In addition, there is a goal to establish cultural councils in Saudi social and cultural life, as well as academic networks. The aim is for the councils to be part of the decision-making process regarding issues that concern regional ICH.

Name

Dr. Jasir Alherbish

Title



CEO of Heritage Commission

Date

13-12-2022