



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

المركز الوطني  
للبحوث  
في عصور ما قبل التاريخ  
علم الإنسان  
والتاريخ

Centre  
National  
de Recherches  
Préhistoriques  
Anthropologiques  
et Historiques



# Workshop

ITH/15/WOR/3  
Paris, 7 September 2015  
Original: English

## SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA: A WORKSHOP FOR EXPERT FACILITATORS FROM THE REGION

Constantine, 28 September– 2 October 2015

### Background Note

Under the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003,<sup>1</sup> States Parties are encouraged to develop public policy and legislation for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH)<sup>2</sup>. States Parties are furthermore encouraged to develop measures to raise awareness of ICH at national and local level, including the development of codes of ethics, legal protection of the rights of the communities and measures to keep the public informed about the importance of intangible cultural heritage and the dangers threatening it.<sup>3</sup>

UNESCO's support to States Parties in the implementation of the 2003 Convention has focused on capacity building by means of a global programme, put in place by its Secretariat since 2009. This global programme aims to strengthen countries' capacities for the sustainable safeguarding of ICH and for harnessing its potential for sustainable development while promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention's concepts and objectives. In this framework, policy revision was identified early on as one of the main tasks, and by late 2012, the Secretariat started integrating provisions for policy advice in the design of capacity-building projects. Since then, it has developed new capacity-building formats and tools to improve the effectiveness of its policy support.<sup>4</sup>

Africa has been the main beneficiary region of the global strategy with some 25 countries benefitting from capacity-building projects since 2009.<sup>5</sup> While capacity-building needs are numerous, States Parties in Africa have frequently requested UNESCO to provide support to developing ICH-related policies and legislation as an urgent area of intervention. In order to provide these services effectively, UNESCO is in the process of refining and adapting its modalities of intervention with the aim to tailor them to the specific country needs.

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter, the 2003 Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Article 13 (a) specifies that States should 'adopt a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society, and at integrating the safeguarding of such heritage into planning programmes.'

Article 2.3 of the Convention defines safeguarding as 'measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.'

<sup>3</sup> Operational Directives 103-105.

<sup>4</sup> UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, Workshop report, How to provide policy advice effectively? Learning from others to refine UNESCO's approach in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 25 June 2014. Available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/27703-EN.doc>

<sup>5</sup> The number of capacity-building extrabudgetary projects which have been implemented or are being implemented between 2009 and present is approximately 10 for Africa (including north African countries), 6 for Asia Pacific, 2 for the Arab Region, 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 for North America and Europe.

## A. UNESCO'S APPROACH TO PROVIDING POLICY SUPPORT IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

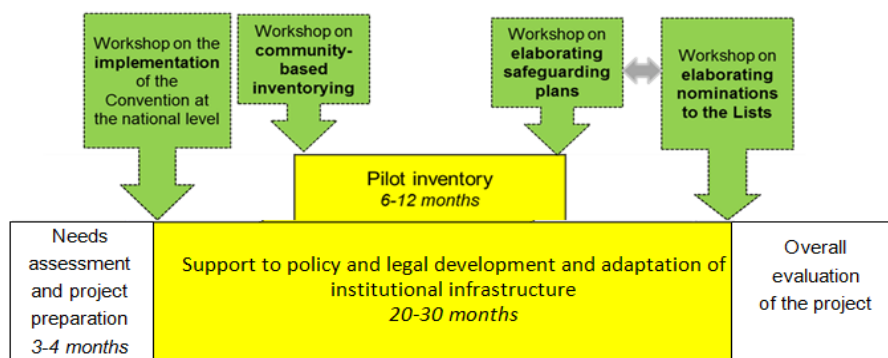
The capacity-building projects systematically contains provisions for policy advice and indeed identified policy revision as one of the following five most urgent capacity-building needs addressed under this programme:

- redesign of the institutional infrastructure to cater to the specific needs of ICH,
- revision of cultural and other policies and legislation,
- development of inventory methods and systems,
- development of effective safeguarding measures, and
- effective participation in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention.

All activities under the projects aim at fully mobilizing all stakeholders (government, civil society and communities) in the decision-making, administration and practical aspects of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the befitting country, with particular emphasis on articulating policies and initiatives that acknowledge the diversity of actors and their roles, aspirations and contributions in relation to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, paying due attention to gender considerations and issues of gender equality.

A typical capacity-building country project, which extends from 24 to 36 months, starts with a needs assessment, followed by a combination of training workshops, guided pilot activities, consultation and advisory services (see graphic below). The principal implementation partner is the Ministry of Culture, which provides a project focal point and access to national teams and assumes responsibility for local coordination and organization of training and pilot activities. A set of curriculum materials has been developed and a network of more than 80 expert facilitators has been trained to deliver workshops and provide advisory services.

### Multi-year tailored projects



*Typical capacity-building country project extending from 24-36 months*

In 2013, an internal evaluation of the implementation of the 2003 Convention was conducted,<sup>6</sup> which concluded that there was a need for more support to countries in developing legislation and policy concerning ICH safeguarding. The Convention's Committee agreed with this conclusion and requested the Secretariat to strengthen its interventions in this area, to develop appropriate formats to do so, and to 'cooperate with sustainable development experts when supporting States Parties with the integration of intangible cultural heritage into non-cultural legislation and policy, and with other work related to intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development'.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluated UNESCO's standard-setting work of the Culture Sector. Part I focused on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), document IOS/EVS/PI/129 REV. (October 2013) [English|French](#) (hereafter IOS Report).

<sup>7</sup> UNESCO, Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Decision 8.COM.5.c.1, [Document, ITH/13/8.COM/Decisions](#).

The Secretariat therefore consulted different policy experts for advice and organized a workshop at UNESCO Headquarters with the participation of other Sectors and agencies to refine UNESCO's approach of providing support to policy and legal development within the capacity-building programme for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.<sup>8</sup>

UNESCO has since then developed and disseminated to its network of expert facilitators a Guidance Note entitled 'Providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage' and commissioned the elaboration of a curriculum on policy and legal development for policy makers and stakeholders at the national level. It has furthermore integrated provisions in new projects in order to provide longer-term policy advice to recipient countries, combining expertise in cultural policies with expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The approach finally intends to create maximum synergy between policy work under the 2003 Convention and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

While the new approach to policy support within the capacity-building programme has taken shape, UNESCO would now like to discuss it at regional level, make improvements as required and ensure that a core group of experts is adequately equipped to provide the policy support in the months and years to come.

Therefore, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section in collaboration with the 'National Centre of Research on Prehistory, Anthropology and History' in Algeria (CNRPAH) and the 'Manifestation Constantine, capitale de la culture arabe 2015' (Constantine, Capital of Arab Culture 2015) is organizing the present workshop on supporting policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Africa.

While the main workshop topic is policy support, it will also devote time, during the last one-and-a-half days, to review the experience of implementing the capacity-building programme in Africa.

## **B. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop intends to improve the effectiveness and impact of UNESCO's policy support to national authorities in the context of the global capacity-building programme for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. More specifically, it aims at the following:

- Improve the content and format of the capacity-building programme to provide policy advice effectively.
- Equip expert-facilitators with the knowledge and tools required to support policy development.
- Take stock of the lessons learnt from implementing the global programme in African countries.

## **C. OUTPUTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The meeting will produce three kinds of outputs:

- A set of suggestions and proposals to further improve the 'UNESCO Guidance Note on providing advisory services for policy development' in the field of intangible cultural heritage;
- An analytical report of the discussions, lessons learnt and recommendations emerging from the workshop for the further development of UNESCO's programme to provide effective policy support in the field of intangible cultural heritage; and
- A report on the review meeting, consolidating the insights and suggestions that emerged from the discussions and suggesting ways forward.

---

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 4 for references to the workshop report.

## D. PARTICIPANTS

The participants of the workshop are members of the expert facilitators' Network of the Convention's capacity-building programme with experience in providing training and advisory services in African countries. It furthermore welcomes some members of the Expert Facility for implementing the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions with a view to learn from their experience and create synergies between the policy interventions carried out under the different UNESCO conventions in the field of culture. From the UNESCO side, Culture programme specialists from UNESCO field offices in Africa and from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section will participate. The CNRPAH will designate Algerian experts who will attend as observers. In total, the workshop will bring together about 45 participants (see list of participants).

## E. MEETING STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

The workshop is divided into two parts: three days will be devoted to policy support and one-and-a-half day to the capacity-building programme review in Africa (see the provisional programme). Friday afternoon is reserved for a cultural visit generously offered by the CRNPAH.

NB: Participants are kindly requested to read the **UNESCO Guidance Note entitled 'Providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage'** together with its annexes prior to the workshop, as it will be one key reference document and participants will be requested to make suggestions for its further improvement throughout the workshop session.

### Part 1: Policy support

After the introductory session, **the first day** of the workshop will focus on identifying and refining the concept of ICH-related policies and key questions to be addressed in developing them. Case studies will be used to discuss synergies and tensions between policies for ICH safeguarding, tangible heritage conservation, intellectual property protection, and cultural industries promotion. The UNESCO Guidance Note entitled 'Providing advisory services for policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage' will be introduced and discussed.

**The second day** of the workshop will focus on specific issues that may affect ICH-related policy making, and on the importance of encouraging the widest possible participation of communities, groups and individuals concerned both in the process of policy-making and in ongoing safeguarding efforts. Participants will work in groups to discuss examples in the field of culture and other areas of policy-making, taking into account regional and international contexts and suggesting possible policy approaches. Additional materials for discussion will be provided in the form of case studies and news clips. Groups will report back in plenary to discuss and consolidate the findings.

**The third day** of the workshop will focus on two main topics: (a) experiences of different countries regarding policy-making, and (b) opportunities, challenges and approaches in providing support services in the field of ICH-related policy. These topics will be addressed through presentations (including experiences from participants on policy-making and policy advisory activities under the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) and discussions in plenary.

This part of the workshop will close with a feedback session to identify key areas to improve the UNESCO Guidance Note and provide advice for the ongoing elaboration of training materials for a policy workshop on this topic.

### Part 2: Review meeting

**The fourth day** of the workshop will focus on a general update on the implementation of the global capacity-building programme in Africa followed by a discussion on organizing and running country activities. Facilitators and Culture programme specialists from UNESCO field offices in Africa will then have the opportunity to work in groups and share their experience, as well as to provide

feedback on the training materials and how they tailored them to specific workshop audiences. This session will be concluded by an update on materials.

**The fifth day** of the workshop will provide the opportunity to participants to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the programme in the African context. Then the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section will present the follow-up and evaluation mechanism for capacity-building activities as well as the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Convention.

This part of the meeting is facilitated by the UNESCO team.

The workshop sessions will include presentations, plenary discussions and group work. Interpretation will be provided in English and French for the plenary sessions.

## **F. Organization**

The workshop which will take place in Constantine, Algeria, from 28 September to 2 October 2015, generously hosted by the Algerian 'National Centre of Research on Prehistory, Anthropology and History' in Algeria (CNRPAH) and the 'Manifestation Constantine, capitale de la culture arabe 2015' (Constantine, Capital of Arab Culture 2015).

The logistical arrangements for participants will be ensured by the CNRPAH (email: [contact@cnrpah.org](mailto:contact@cnrpah.org)).