








United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



« Intercultural Policies for Social
Inclusion and Generation of
Opportunities »

MDG-F Culture and Development
Joint Programme implemented in

COSTA RICA

<p>DURATION : June 2008 – February 2012</p>	<p>CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :</p>     
<p>UN PARTNERS : UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO</p>	
<p>BUDGET : 4.8 million USD</p>	

OVERVIEW :

The Joint Programme aims to promote the cultural and social inclusion of marginalized groups as well as the productive potential of the creative sector, taking as a starting point the establishment of La Libertad Park: a space for undertaking and managing artistic, ecological and culture-related projects, thereby supporting entrepreneurship and fostering commercial opportunities for 15 marginalized districts in the country's largest built-up urban area.

Specific objectives :

- Empower communities that are representative of the country's cultural diversity, by strengthening their social capital and sustainable utilization of cultural resources
- Strengthen national institutional capacity to develop and implement intercultural policies in specific communities

DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT PROGRAMME:

- Economics
- Education
- Social
- Environment

CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :

- Intangible cultural heritage
- Performance and celebration
- Tourism

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :

- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :

National, with a particular emphasis on the 6 districts surrounding the La Libertad Park in San José: San Antonio de Desamparados, Patarrá, Damas, San Miguel, Tirrases y Río Azul

SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS :

- **Marginal urban communities empowered in terms of their cultural identity, rights, resources and social capital:** more than 100 secondary school students and teachers trained to use culture as a sustainable resource; School of Musical Arts founded; festivals held in the Park; incubation model established for developing cultural ventures in the Park; courses organised on management and production of public shows; cultural, creative, tourist and food production initiatives inventoried and evaluated within 9 rural cantons
- **Improved institutional capacities to manage intercultural policies in the culture, education, health and agriculture sectors:** intercultural approach streamlined in public education through a curricular reform of secondary school classes in civic and physical education, music and visual arts; intercultural approach integrated within the National Programme of Agricultural Markets; intercultural analysis of indigenous health policies; first National System of Cultural Indicators (SICultura) created and launched ; 1 061 public servants and leaders trained in interculturalism

BENEFICIARIES :

Direct: 19 500

Indirect: 78 700

- Resident communities in the areas directly and indirectly affected by the creation of La Libertad Park – in particular vulnerable categories: teenage mothers, youth and children at social risk, minority cultural groups, migrant populations, people with special needs
- Indigenous populations
- Cultural enterprises
- Producers in cultural and creative sectors
- Agricultural producers of underutilized and traditional food crops
- Students and teachers in public-sector secondary education
- Ministry officials responsible for formulating social inclusion policies
- Artists and cultural promoters/managers
- Professionals conducting historical, agronomic, medical and cultural research

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :

- Ministries: Culture and Youth; Public Education; Agriculture and Livestock ; Health; Economy, Industry and Trade; National Planning and Economic Policy
- Municipalities: La Unión; Desamparados; Curridabat; San José; Corredores; Talamanca; Sarapiquí; Guatuso; Santa Cruz; Coto Brus; Puntarenas; Liberia
- Civil society bodies: La Libertad Park and Omar Dengo Foundations; Health Councils; General and specific development associations; Cantonal Chambers of Commerce and/or Tourism; National, Regional and Cantonal Boards for Agricultural Fairs; Agricultural Fairs of Central and Eastern Valleys Association (AFANECO); Cantonal Agricultural Centres; National Ultimate Players Association (UPA); Cantonal Councils for Food and Nutritional Safety; Development of the Maleku Territory Association

ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES:

The Joint Programme is aligned to the priorities of the participating ministries and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012.

SUCCESS STORIES :

❖ Revitalization of culinary traditions

Sustainable socio-economic development has been fostered through greater food security, nutritional health and livelihoods of local families, the use of eco-friendly practices, the promotion and safeguarding of cultural diversity, and community and women's empowerment, following an innovative approach to revive culinary traditions in view of tackling the drop in consumption of native food. Accordingly, culinary traditions are seen as going beyond the preparation of dishes; they are envisaged as community-based processes (involving agronomists, nutritionists, anthropologists etc.) incorporating various dimensions: culture (transmission of traditional knowledge, safeguarding of cultural heritage), health (consumption of varied ingredients), economics (traditional dishes are produced locally, thereby reducing production costs and enabling families to sell their dishes and excess crops) and environment (sustainable use of local crops).

❖ Urban ventures and medium and small-sized enterprises : the story in La Libertad Park

Sustainable economic development has been fostered by designing an incubation model for the development of cultural ventures and medium and small-sized enterprises in La Libertad Park, and by converting eight pilot cultural ventures located in the Park's area of influence into sustainable businesses following trainings in corporate management and sensibilization about the impact of culture on the positioning of products on the market.

❖ Costa Rican cultural information system (SICultura)

National capacity to facilitate the right to participate in cultural life has been greatly strengthened through the design and launch of a user-friendly platform called SICultura, which is updated on a voluntary basis by a network of people above the age of 15 and provides public information on human resources and infrastructure in Costa Rica's artistic-cultural sector, with the longer-term aim of generating data, statistics and indicators for the development of future cultural policies. It is the first ever system of its kind in Central America and has been incorporated into the country's National Development Plan for 2010-2014. Other countries, such as Honduras and Nicaragua, have started similar initiatives, basing themselves on SICultura.

❖ Agricultural fairs showcasing local food and enhancing intercultural understanding

Intercultural dialogue and social cohesion have been promoted through intercultural festivals showcasing Costa Rica's food, thereby contributing to social development. During those festivals, farmers presented their products along with information about their own lifestyle, the ways in which their products are produced and arrive at the fairs, as well as the ways to eat such products in their region, all the while continuing to sell them. Knowledge was thus shared amongst farmers from different regions and the general public was able to learn about the various cultural identities behind the country's food.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

- http://nacionesunidas.or.cr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=104&Itemid=100007
- MDG-F website : <http://www.mdgfund.org/program/interculturalpolicie-socialinclusionandgenerationopportunities>