



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

## The global UNESCO capacity-building strategy for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

Capacity building for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) at national level enjoys high priority in UNESCO's programme. It was put in place since 2009 to assist States Parties in creating institutional and professional environments favourable to the sustainable safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and in promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention's concepts and objectives.

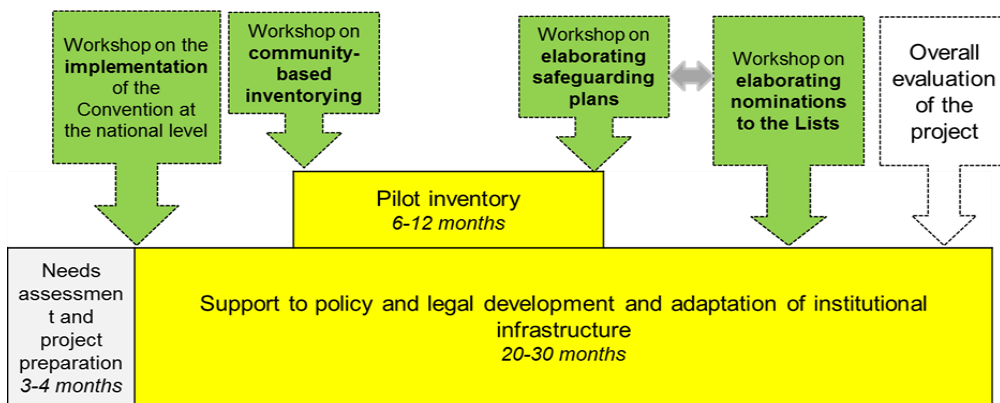
The strategy proceeds along four axes: i) developing training content and materials, ii) strengthening the network of expert facilitators, iii) delivering capacity-building services to beneficiary countries and iv) monitoring and evaluation.

The strategy, which was described in detail in a report provided to the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ([Document ITH/12/7.COM/INF.5](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/inf/127)), addresses the following priority issues:

- 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
- Effective participation in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention

To date, more than 60 countries are benefitting from tailored multi-year projects with budget envelopes going up to US\$300,000 or US\$400,000 per country, as resources permit.

### Multi-year tailored projects



**Typical capacity-building country project extending from 18 to 36 months**

More than 50 thematic training units and guidance materials have been developed covering different content areas: (i) ratification, (ii) implementation, (iii) policy development, (iv) community-based inventorying, (v) safeguarding plans (vi) nominations and international assistance. Materials on transversal issues include sustainable development and gender. These materials are adapted to local contexts and used for training and longer-term policy advice and institutional reform.

More than 80 experts form part of UNESCO's network of facilitators delivering training and capacity-building services around the world (43% are from Africa and 40% are women). UNESCO regularly updates experts' knowledge of recent developments in the life of the Convention, assesses lessons learnt and trains them on newly developed curriculum materials. UNESCO field offices, participate in review meetings and trainings. A dedicated website is available at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/>

We welcome all financial support to keep the momentum and expand the regional and thematic outreach of the strategy. A word of thanks goes to the donors who, since 2010, have provided financial contributions.

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