**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Twelfth session**

**Jeju Island, Republic of Korea**

**4 to 9 December 2017**

**Item 11.d of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Examination of requests for International Assistance**

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| **Summary**  The present document includes the recommendations of the Evaluation Body on requests for International Assistance (Part A) and a set of draft decisions for the Committee’s consideration (Part B). An overview of the 2017 files and the working methods of the Evaluation Body is included in document [ITH/17/12.COM/11](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-11-EN.docx).  **Decision required:** paragraph 3 |

2. **Recommendations**
3. The Evaluation Body recommends that the Committee approve the following International Assistance requests:

| **Draft Decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File No.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [12.COM 11.d.2](#DRAFT_DECISION_12_COM_11_d_2) | Uganda | Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda | US$232,120 | [01210](https://ich.unesco.org/en/11d-international-assistance-requests-00941#11.d.2) |
| [12.COM 11.d.3](#DRAFT_DECISION_12_COM_11_d_3) | Zambia | Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia | US$334,820 | [01281](https://ich.unesco.org/en/11d-international-assistance-requests-00941#11.d.3) |

1. The Evaluation Body recommends that the Committee refer the following International Assistance request to the submitting State:

| **Draft Decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File No.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [12.COM 11.d.1](#DRAFT_DECISION_12_COM_11_d_1) | Colombia | My heritage, my region: strategy for strengthening social management capacities of the intangible cultural heritage in the Colombian Orinoco region | US$424,011 | [01211](https://ich.unesco.org/en/11d-international-assistance-requests-00941#11.d.1) |

1. **Draft decisions**
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

**DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 11.d.1** [](#Recommends_that_the_committee_refer)

The Committee,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 11.d, as well as International Assistance request no. 01211,
3. Takes note that Colombia has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **My heritage, my region: strategy for strengthening social management capacities of the intangible cultural heritage in the Colombian Orinoco region** (No. 01211):

‘My Heritage, My Region’ is a strategy for strengthening intangible cultural heritage safeguarding capacities in the Colombian Orinoco region. Thanks to the region’s geographical location, as well as its ethnic and cultural diversity, it is especially rich in intangible cultural heritage, giving its inhabitants a strong sense of belonging and identity. However, due to the poor availability of existing information as well as the recurrence of events stemming from internal armed conflict, there have been difficulties in implementing an effective safeguarding plan for intangible cultural heritage. To respond to this situation, the implementation of a capacity-building strategy in the social management of intangible cultural heritage in the Orinoco region would give local authorities and citizens the autonomous power to identify and assess intangible cultural heritage in their midst and to understand the mechanisms, strategies and actions to encourage their effective safeguarding. The strategy will be based on community participation throughout with a key focus on empowering communities to independently develop new heritage safeguarding strategies. Once the training process is complete, participants will be able to use the tools and techniques learned to carry out their own safeguarding actions and present projects and initiatives to the various regional and private partners who can sponsor them.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the national level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Colombia requested an allocation of US$424,011 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information included in the file, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance, as set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The capacity-building strategy refers to a series of workshops as well as research activities and publications, as measures aiming to build upon management capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Orinoco region. There is a special emphasis on the role and intangible cultural heritage of women. However, the names of the respective communities are missing in the file. Likewise, information is missing on the active participation of the community in the preparation of the request, pointing to a top-down approach employed by institutions. Reference is made to training strategies formulated by the communities in each territory, but it remains unclear who the beneficiary communities are.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget breakdown covers the project’s twenty-four-month duration and a consistent overview of the proposed activities is given. The budget proposes that the Intangible Heritage Fund cover 86 per cent of the total costs. It is well-structured and the itemized costs seem adequate to carry out the planned activities in accordance with the proposed schedule. The joint analysis of the budget and the form present a coherent and logical sequence of activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are presented in a feasible order, focusing mainly on the participatory workshops for community leaders, government officials and the general public. However, it is not clear how the project will be implemented and managed, and the concrete partners are not yet well defined. In addition, the body responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project does not seem to have been identified.

**Criterion A.4**: The cycle of capacity-building workshops and research projects is intended to provide participants with the methodological tools to continue to work on the management and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage within their own communities. This should enable them to present initiatives to various potential partners in a qualified manner. Nevertheless, it is not clear from the content of the file if the programme will continue to function after the project has been implemented.

**Criterion A.5**: The State Party would contribute 10 per cent of the total budget, within the limits of its available resources, while other partners would cover 4 per cent. The State Party’s input relates to the costs of the coordinator, as well as the travel and accommodation costs for participants.

**Criterion A.6**: The strategy follows the guidelines envisaged in the global policies to strengthen capacities for collaborative projects in the field of heritage. The project may contribute to the autonomy of local cultural agents in managing their heritage and the file highlights the collaboration established by the project between officials in the cultural sector and cultural leaders from the communities concerned, whose know-how is likely to be increased by such an endeavor. The purpose of the workshops is to equip participants with these skills, to enable them to work autonomously within their respective communities to improve upon the future management of intangible cultural heritage. The strategy also brings together different stakeholders to work on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in relation to areas such as research and cultural policy.

**Criterion A.7**: Colombia is currently receiving International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund in the amount of US$25,000 for a project entitled ‘Safeguarding of the traditional knowledge for the protection of sacred natural sites in the territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí, Vaupés Province, Colombia’ (2017-2018). The contract for this project was established in June 2017, in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The proposed project is local in scope and involves local and national partners in building capacities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region of Orinoco.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: Manifestations of intangible cultural heritage will gain visibility nationally and internationally as a result of the project and thanks to the publication and dissemination, by the Ministry of Culture, of the best projects. Although originally local in scope, the project is nonetheless part of a larger national strategy and the experiences that it generates will inspire similar efforts in the country and attract potential donors.

1. Decides to refer the International Assistance request for the project entitled **My heritage, my region: strategy for strengthening social management capacities of the intangible cultural heritage in the Colombian Orinoco region** to the requesting State Party and invites it to submit a revised request to the Committee for examination during a following cycle;
2. Encourages the State Party, should it wish to resubmit the request, to revise the content and approach of the project taking into account the above-mentioned concerns, particularly to ensure that the communities involved are well-defined and to encourage a bottom-up approach by placing communities at the heart of the project and giving them an active role in the design, implementation and monitoring of the activities.

**DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 11.d.2** [](#Recommends_that_the_committee_approve)

The Committee,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 11.d as well as International Assistance request no. 01210,
3. Takes note that Uganda has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda** (No. 01210):

Inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List in December 2013, Empaako is a traditional naming system whereby, in addition to their family and given names, a child is given an Empaako from a list of twelve shared by the entire community. The practice is associated with rituals and ceremonies whose meaning is central to the identity and belief systems of the communities concerned. However, Empaako is faced with serious threats to its viability and the language of the Empaako tradition is declining even among its traditional communities. Empaako is threatened by religious groups, the reduced performance of its ceremonies and a drastic loss of knowledge about these ceremonies. In response to this situation, the general objectives of this safeguarding plan are to revitalize the practice and the observance of associated ceremonies, enhance the capacities of the communities concerned to transmit knowledge and skills to successive generations and mobilize practitioners to revive the practice. The capacity of eighty-seven stakeholders to document their own intangible cultural heritage will be developed, creating a network of promoters of community-based documenters of intangible cultural heritage. The communities concerned will be the main drivers of the project and ten selected community professionals will facilitate throughout the capacity-building workshops.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the national level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Uganda requested an allocation of US$232,120 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information included in the file, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance, as set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request concerns the development of a practical guide regarding community-based self-documentation of intangible cultural heritage related to the local naming tradition. The request places communities in a central position and is based on a thorough study of community needs. Active community participation is ensured throughout the various stages of the project, and community members will be involved in the entire process, from collecting the data to disseminating the results and monitoring. Monthly clan meetings will be organized in order to mobilize bearers.

**Criterion A.2**: In light of the diversity and density of the activities planned within this project, which are aimed at enabling communities to document and revitalize a ceremony and its associated practices, the amount of assistance requested is appropriate, as demonstrated in the detailed budget breakdown provided. The budgetary items are clear and the sources of funding are well-defined.

**Criterion A.3**: The budget is well-conceived, reasonably structured and consistent with the planned activities. There is a a clear overview and precise timetable of the project, and the objectives are clearly specified and match the identified threats. The activities are planned in a logical sequence, from the development of the practical guide to the capacity-building workshops, the documentation of ceremonies associated with Empaako and the dissemination of the results.

**Criterion A.4**: The mechanisms established by the project will continue to function beyond the lifespan of the project. The documentation gained will feed into educational materials, with its multimedia formats being adapted for distribution through the mass media and for dissemination within and by cultural institutions and various cultural events. The project’s supervising committee will be responsible for integrating intangible cultural heritage-related issues into community programmes in general.

**Criterion A.5**: The Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund would ensure 80 per cent of the total project budget, while the State Party is committed to providing 13 per cent, with other partners contributing 7 per cent. The share of the State Party relates to logistics for monitoring, evaluation and reporting, as well as to the editing and translation of the practical guide.

**Criterion A.6:** The request for assistance is specifically aimed at reinforcing capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. Practitioners of Empaako traditions from clans, community associations and cultural institutions will acquire documentation skills, as well as the specific skills needed to carry out research, fieldwork and training that will be introduced and developed through the project. Public awareness of the implications of the 2003 Convention will also be raised.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has so far benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund five times, for the following projects: 1) ‘Inventorying the intangible cultural heritage of four communities in Uganda’ (2013-2015; USD$216,000); 2) Preparatory assistance for ‘The male-child cleansing ceremony of the Lango people of North Central Uganda’ (2012-2013; US$8,570); 3) Preparatory assistance for ‘Madi bow lyre music, O’di’ (2013-2015; US$10,000); 4) ‘Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda’ (2015-2017; US$24,990) and 5) ‘Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda’ (2017-2020; US$97,582).

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and would involve partners at the district and national levels, such as the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the UNESCO National Commission, the Ministry of Education and Sports, local governmental bodies and cultural institutions. The non-governmental organization responsible for the implementation of the project is funded by international partners.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: A network of trainers and promoters of community self-documentation will be produced, thereby alllowing for the extension of programmes related to intangible cultural heritage. The project is likely to stimulate financial and technical contributions from other sources and stakeholders. In this respect, documentation is seen as a crucial tool for strengthening the transmission of the element to successive generations.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Uganda for the project entitled **Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda** and grants the amount of US$232,120 to the State Party to this end;
2. Invites the State Party to pay particular attention to the existing religious sensitivities in the region concerned both during and beyond the planning and implementation of the project;
3. Recommends that the State Party strive to ensure the long-term viability of the ceremonies and practices associated with the element, given that the final assistance requested is limited to twenty-one months;
4. Further invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 11.d.3** [](#Recommends_that_the_committee_approve)

The Committee,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 11.d as well as International Assistance request no. 01281,
3. Takes note that Zambia has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia** (No. 01281):

Since 2010, a number of capacity-building, inventory-making and awareness-creating activities have been carried out in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage by different stakeholders. Participants appreciated these training workshops and were unanimous in calling for a more advanced, comprehensive version of the training to be introduced. To this end, this project intends to develop and implement a degree programme specializing in intangible cultural heritage at the University of Zambia. The project’s objectives are threefold: to provide a critical mass of experts for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia; to improve the level of training of administrators and experts working in the field of intangible cultural heritage to degree level; and to provide a niche for critical research and in-depth understanding in this field. In its first year, the degree programme is expected to enroll at least 20 district cultural officers sponsored by the project. These officers are currently responsible for identifying and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage together with local communities in all 105 districts in Zambia. The project will use the UNESCO capacity-building programme and its materials to develop a local syllabus and training manual for the degree programme. It is intended to inspire many people to take an interest in issues related to intangible cultural heritage and will have far-reaching benefits for people interested in its safeguarding.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the national level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in accordance with article 20 of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Zambia requested an allocation of US$334,820 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information included in the file, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance, as set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: Through training sessions recently held as part of the capacity-building programme, the participating members of the community repeatedly expressed their desire to acquire a formal qualification in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, such as through the development of a degree programme at the University of Zambia. During the preparation of the proposal, the views of the different communities were represented by the chief cultural officer of the ministry responsible for intangible cultural heritage and team of provincial and district cultural officers, who were actively involved in the capacity-building programme.

**Criterion A.2**: The file provides a detailed budget, grouping costs by activity. The timetable is planned according to the progress of each stage of the programme, and provides reasonable time frames.

**Criterion A.3**: The budget is well-conceived, consistent with the planned activities and reasonably structured, with a clear overview and precise timetable of the project. The INESOR Institute at the University of Zambia will be responsible for implementing the project, in collaboration with the National Commission of UNESCO. The expertise and experience of the human resources involved in the realization of the project are clearly indicated, as are the background, structure and mission of the implementing organization.

**Criterion A.4**: In terms of lasting results, the project will lead to the development of a national curriculum to strengthen capacities to implement the 2003 Convention, notably in relation to safeguarding through identification, research, documentation and inventorying activities. For instance, research projects carried out by students within communities would raise awareness about intangible cultural heritage. After UNESCO’s support for twenty experts and practitioners during the initial three years, their subsequent fees and the costs associated with new enrolments for the degree programme will be supported by the Zambian government or corporate sponsors. The impact of the project can also be seen in its establishment of a more solid body of experts, including community members.

**Criterion A.5**: The Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund would cover 90 per cent of the total project budget, with the State Party providing the remaining 10 per cent to finance staff fees, training materials, facility rental costs, equipment, communication costs, operational overheads and so on.

**Criterion A.6**: The project will achieve the goal of strengthening the skills and abilities of community representatives to independently undertake various intangible cultural heritage safeguarding measures thereafter. It is mandatory for every student to carry out a practical project together with the communities and for their benefit. With the knowledge and skills acquired through the degree programme, beneficiary students will be able to produce inventories and develop safeguarding projects in line with the 2003 Convention. Thanks to the practical component of the programme, which will provide participants with the learning and experience required to be a professional in the field of intangible cultural heritage, the capacities of the communities are also expected to be reinforced.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has so far benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund two times, for the following two inventorying projects: 1) ‘Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community in Luano District of Zambia’, contract under preparation (2016-2017; US$24,999.90); 2) ‘Inventorying of the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District’, contract under preparation (2016-2017; US$24,928.30). These are implemented in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The proposed bachelor’s degree programme in intangible cultural heritage is national in scope and involves participants from all ten provinces in Zambia. However, experts from other southern African countries will also be invited to teach the subject in the future.

**Paragraph10(b)**: The project is nationwide in scope, with the potential to expand beyond Zambia’s borders. The University of Zambia is one of the first universities in the wider region to offer degree programmes of this kind, and may attract students from different countries, as well as sponsors to contribute to the sustainability of the programme in the longer term.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Zambia for the project entitled **Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia** and grants the amount of US$334,820 to the State Party to this end;
2. Invites the State Party to seek the involvement of other collaborating institutions and organizations, including partners outside of the University of Zambia, in the implementation of the project, as a means to ensure transparency and greater impact;
3. Highlights the need for the State Party to ensure that the outcomes of the project are sustainable beyond the completion of the first cycle of the degree programme funded with this assistance;
4. Further invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.