



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Progress Report

Project Title	Strengthening the capacities of Eritrea for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Target Country or Region	Eritrea
UNESCO Budget Code	199GLO4000 (WBS element 199GLO4000.8)
Funding Source	Kingdom of Norway voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
Total Budget Approved	US\$278,164
Reporting Period	1 October 2014 – 30 October 2015
Executing Agency	UNESCO
Implementing Partners	Cultural Affairs Bureau Eritrea National Commission for UNESCO National Museum of Eritrea Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre College of Arts
Project Starting Date	21 March 2014
Project Completion Date	20 March 2016
Responsible Sector	UNESCO Culture Sector
Name of Persons Completing Report	Ms Fumiko Ohinata (Intangible Cultural Heritage Section) Mr Vitalice Ochieng (UNESCO Nairobi Office)

I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The project aims to assist Eritrea to strengthen its capacities for safeguarding living heritage in its territory in accordance with UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which the country ratified in 2010. From a number of consultations previously organized by UNESCO, the need to enhance national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Africa region, including Eritrea became apparent (e.g. a national workshop in 2009 in Asmara, and a regional workshop for directors of culture in 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya – the Director of Cultural Affairs of Eritrea participating in the latter).

Eritrea is home to a vibrant and wide range of intangible cultural heritage practised and enjoyed by nine main ethnolinguistic groups. However, for a long period the social and cultural importance of this heritage and role in sustainable development was considered not fully appreciated in the country mainly due to the war of independence and subsequent focus of the nation's development strategy on issues like external relations, food security and health. However, the tide is turning. The Eritrean Constitution supports the promotion of culture and a draft National Cultural Policy has been elaborated. Eritrea has also begun working on a strategy to promote the role of culture for social cohesion and sustainable development as demonstrated by the hosting of an annual cultural festival which encourages the participation of communities from all parts of Eritrea.

Despite such will at the national level to recognize the positive role of culture and heritage, culture is still not a priority for funding in Eritrea. It is part of the reason why there has not been adequate stakeholder involvement in activities undertaken by the Eritrean government regarding the 2003 Convention. As a result, governmental institutions, experts and communities are not aware of the Convention's scope, provisions and objectives. Furthermore, national capacity to spearhead implementation of the 2003 Convention is limited both in terms of numbers of personnel and expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Within the framework of UNESCO's global capacity-building programme for strengthening national safeguarding capacities, this project was established to help Eritrea enhance its national capacities. More specifically, it intends to provide support to the revision of legislative and policy frameworks, build capacities to draw up inventories and benefit from the 2003 Convention as an intergovernmental mechanism that includes international assistance and Lists for elements to be inscribed.

The project is financed by a supplementary voluntary contribution from Norway to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund under the 2003 Convention, earmarked to support capacity building in Eritrea. The UNESCO Nairobi Office, in collaboration with UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, is responsible for implementing the project working closely with the National Project Coordination Team (also the Subcommittee on Intangible Cultural Heritage). Team members include the National Commission of Eritrea for UNESCO, the National Museum of Eritrea, Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre and the College of Arts and Science among others, under the leadership of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

During the previous reporting period, which covered the first seven months of the project's implementation following decentralization of funds to the UNESCO Nairobi Office (21 March 2014) one of the activities held was a meeting between Eritrean national authorities and UNESCO Nairobi in Asmara from 18 – 24 August 2014 to plan details of the project and prepare the different components. This second implementation report covers the period from 1 October 2014 to 30 October 2015.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS REGARDING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Project management:

- There is no change to the structure of the project's coordination at national level which is assumed by **the Subcommittee on Intangible Cultural Heritage**. As the chair institution of this subcommittee, the Cultural Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Education is the main counterpart

to the UNESCO Nairobi Office. During the reporting period, the Subcommittee met several times to discuss the project's implementation.

- The Cultural Affairs Bureau engaged two focal persons in April 2015 to ensure the project's coordination.
- UNESCO Nairobi Office continues to benefit from a part-time programme assistant to help with the project's follow up.

Component I – Strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks:

- The Project Coordination Team identified one national expert (Mr Senai Woldeab) who was tasked to collect information related to existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks. On the basis of this desk study, the expert also elaborated draft legislation for Eritrea on cultural heritage.
- A stakeholder's workshop on Eritrean Cultural and Natural Heritage Legislation took place on 26 and 27 May 2015 in Asmara organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Asmara Heritage Project in coordination with UNESCO Nairobi Office. Workshop participants were Eritrean experts who represented stakeholder institutions such as the National Museum of Eritrea, National Commission of Eritrea for UNESCO, Research and Documentation Centre, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Department of Religious Affairs, Eritrean Institute of Technology, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Eritrean Police and the School of Law.
- The workshop benefited from the presence of Mr Silverse Anami, a UNESCO international expert from Kenya who shared his perspectives on cultural policy reform in favour of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- The legislation encompasses protection of tangible heritage including natural heritage, as well as safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. It addresses issues pertaining to the definition of various forms of culture, ownership and use of heritage, institutional set up in the field of heritage conservation and safeguarding (including the establishment of the Board under the Ministry of Education, and the Eritrean Cultural and Natural Heritage Fund).
- Following a recommendation by the above-mentioned workshop, the Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation was proclaimed and gazetted on 30 September 2015 (proclamation number 177/2015).

Component II – Community-based inventorying: training and fieldwork:

- The Project Coordination Team is still discussing the selection of a pilot community which will undertake inventorying activity within the project's framework. As soon as the community is selected, the Project Coordination Team will establish a list of participants based on the composition of a profile indicated in the project document (five national culture officers, five district culture officers and 15 community members). Two international expert facilitators from UNESCO's network and one national expert will be identified for the training. The international experts will be selected from the above-mentioned network of facilitators. The training is due to be organized for the second quarter of 2016.
- The Project Coordination Team considers it important to organize the inventorying workshop in a town closer to the participating community to maximize attendance – an approach in line with UNESCO's capacity-building programme under which the project was designed.
- To support management of the project, the UNESCO Nairobi office made funds available to the Cultural Affairs Bureau for purchasing equipment, which was completed in September 2015. The equipment is to ensure good coordination of the project's implementation with various activities in Asmara organized, as well as by pilot communities. The process took much longer than expected due to newly introduced purchasing regulations of the Eritrean Government. According to a report from the Culture Affairs Bureau of 25 October 2015, an increased market price for IT equipment meant that funds foreseen for the project were not enough to purchase all items envisaged. Consequently, the Project Coordination Team decided to adjust the number of

items, as summarized in the table below (the original plan for purchasing equipment is also included in Annex I of the project document). The equipment will be given to those needing it for the next visit of the director of the UNESCO Nairobi Office, foreseen in the first quarter of 2016.

Purchased	Planned	Organization responsible	To be used by
1 desktop computer	-	Cultural Affairs Bureau	
2 laptop computers	2 laptop computers		Project Coordination Team
1 digital camera	-		Community
2 digital audio recorders	2 digital audio recorders		Community
6 printer cartridges	-		Project Coordination Team
-	2 printers		Project Coordination Team + Community

Component III – Preparing nomination files and international assistance requests:

The Project Coordination Team foresees that the five-day workshop be organized in the last quarter of 2016 in Asmara, focusing on the elaboration of requests for international assistance to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and the preparation of nomination files for inscription on the Lists under the 2003 Convention. It is also hoped that through this process and the practicum of the training, participants can come up with a draft nomination and request for international assistance.

III. PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

Since the start of the project, a meeting was organized in Asmara to bring the main stakeholders on board and discuss the details of planned activities. The project also directly contributed to the elaboration of the Eritrean Cultural and Natural Heritage Legislation, which was officially proclaimed.

<p>Overall goal of the project: The project aims to assist Eritrea to strengthen its capacities for safeguarding living heritage in its territory in accordance with UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.</p>		<p>Overall assessment: Since the decentralization of funds to the UNESCO Nairobi Office on 21 March 2014, important progress with the project has been made, particularly in terms of elaboration of legislation on cultural and natural heritage. Not only did a stakeholder workshop take place to undertake necessary consultation with key players in heritage conservation and safeguarding but the legislation itself has been proclaimed. It is important to continue the project's momentum to implement the remaining components, namely on community-based inventorying and capacity building in the preparation of nominations and international assistance requests. The project's duration needs to be extended for an additional 12 months to absorb delays due to Eritrea's challenging IT and administrative environment.</p>		
Expected results	Performance Indicators (PIs) and associated Target (T) /baselines (b)		Achievement(s)	Outputs contributing to expected results
	Programmed	Attained		
<p>Expected result N°1: Eritrea establishes the institutional infrastructure required for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage</p>	<p>PI: Advisory support provided to put in place adequate institutional infrastructure (dedicated departments, committees, strategies or action plans, etc.) for Eritrea T/b: At least one consultation/ policy review meeting</p>	<p>The Culture and Natural Heritage Proclamation elaborated and gazetted</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Output/deliverable 1: Advisory support provided to put in place adequate institutional infrastructure (dedicated departments, committees, strategies or action plans, etc.) for Eritrea</p>
<p>Expected result N°2: Eritrea establishes a framework and methodology for inventorying intangible cultural heritage with the participation of communities, groups and relevant NGOs</p>	<p>PI: A number of inventorying frameworks and/or methodologies established T/b: At least one inventorying framework and or methodology established</p>	<p>Activities not yet taken place</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Output/deliverable 1: Training delivered in Eritrea on theoretical and practical aspects of community-based inventorying applying a gender-responsive approach</p>
<p>Expected Result N°3: Eritrea utilizes the strengthened institutional and human resources, both female and male, from government, civil society and communities, for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage</p>	<p>PI: Number of cultural officers, community representatives and NGO members trained T/b: At least 20 people (community representatives, cultural officers, and NGO members) trained</p>	<p>Activities not yet taken place</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Output/deliverable 1: Training delivered on the Convention's international mechanisms and preparing international assistance requests and nominations to the Lists</p>

IV. SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT/TRANSITION STRATEGY

The establishment of a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is the project's main objective. To achieve this aim, UNESCO has been working closely with national authorities to implement the project effectively. The project systematically covers the core concepts of the Convention and provides the country with a thorough understanding of its obligations at the national level, as well as substantial knowledge of the Convention's mechanisms of international cooperation. It will help demonstrate to government officials and stakeholders how the Convention can be implemented in practice by undertaking activities such as policy development, community-based inventorying and enhancing capacities to request international assistance and elaborate nomination files for Lists of the Convention.

Every activity is planned with relevant stakeholders and implemented by the Project Coordination Team managed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. UNESCO and partner institutions involved pay particular attention to the selection of workshop participants taking into account gender equity and representation of young people. Local experts will be invited to join a National Task Team responsible for continuing various activities, especially inventorying, once the project is completed.

The strengthening of the Subcommittee on Intangible Cultural Heritage as a key implementing partner shall also serve to ensure the sustainability of expected results beyond the project's completion. To be conducted over the substantial period of 24 months, this integrated capacity-building strategy has the potential for real and lasting impact and equip Eritrea with the human resources and technical know-how necessary to continue implementing the Convention effectively.

This project includes systematic evaluation of training and services provided and materials produced.

V. WORK PLAN

There is no change to the content and sequence of planned activities but the timetable has been updated to absorb delays experienced so far (see Annex ii). This means that the project period will be extended for an additional year.

VI. VISIBILITY

As part of awareness-raising activities, the Subcommittee on Intangible Cultural Heritage is planning to organise a presentation on the project during the first quarter of 2016, and produce a flyer on activities undertaken to engage the media and wider public.

A news item on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Section website, initially planned in February/March 2015 to coincide with the project's launch, has been rescheduled for the first quarter of 2016 to report to the public on progress made.

Donor support will also be mentioned on the website and in all project documents. At present, however, the Government of Norway has no local representation in Eritrea.

Furthermore, working documents on the project and associated presentations generated by the UNESCO Secretariat will gain prominence for the initiative at the Convention's statutory meetings.

VII. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROJECT

Communication continues to be extremely difficult for Eritrea mainly because of its slow internet connection, which is one of the reasons why the first workshop on elaboration of legislation on culture took long to organize.

The procedure for purchasing equipment is also lengthy, creating delays in training on community-based inventorying.

Furthermore, national authorities wish to approve each aspect of the project's implementation. While this is a welcome sign, as the project is fully owned by the beneficiary country, internal decision-making processes can be lengthy contributing to further delays in the project's implementation.

VIII. ANNEXES

i. List of national and international staff

International staff

Ms Karalyn Monteil (UNESCO Nairobi Office)

Ms Doyun Lee (Intangible Cultural Heritage Section)

National staff based in UNESCO Nairobi Office

Mr Walter Matoke, Programme Assistant

Mr Vitalice Ochieng, Assistant Programme Officer

Eritrean project focal points

Mr Mekonnen Kidane

Mr Mohad Suleman

ii. Revised timetable

Original timetable 	First revision 	Second revision 	* = completed
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March 2014 – February 2015

Activities	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Coordination meetings with stakeholders												
Component I: Strengthening policy, legal and institutional framework												
Desk study, workshop and proclamation												
Component II: Community-based inventorying and fieldwork												
Training workshop and fieldwork												
Component III: Preparing nominations and international assistance requests												
Training workshop												
Project management												
Evaluation												
Monitoring												

March 2015 – February 2016

Activities	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Coordination meetings with stakeholders												
Component I: Strengthening policy, legal and institutional framework												
Desk study, workshop and proclamation												
Component II: Community-based inventorying and fieldwork												
Training workshop and fieldwork												
Component III: Preparing nominations and international assistance requests												
Training workshop												
Project management												
Evaluation												
Monitoring												

March 2016 – February 2017

Activities	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Coordination meetings with stakeholders												
Component II: Community-based inventorying and fieldwork												
Training workshop and fieldwork												
Component III: Preparing nominations and international assistance requests												
Training workshop												
Project management												
Evaluation												
Monitoring												

iii. Project work plan

 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project Title: Strengthening the capacities of Eritrea for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage2. Beneficiary Country/Countries: Eritrea3. Time Frame: 24 months4. Funding source: Voluntary supplementary contribution from Norway to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund5. Co-funding sources, if any: N/A6. Total estimated budget, including 10% support costs: US\$278,164-007. International Executing Agency: UNESCO8. Responsible Sector/Division/Field Office: UNESCO Office in Nairobi9. Name of the project officer: Mulekeni Ngulube (Ms)10. Partners (external and/or UN): None11. Executive Summary:<p>This project aims at enhancing the national capacity of Eritrea to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It intends to build a critical level of experience and knowledge, both in government institutions, civil society and in selected communities, so that the country is equipped with an appropriate sustainable framework for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention on a long term basis.</p><p>In particular, the project will pay due attention to the adequacy of institutional environments, abilities and strategies to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks and the strengthening of national expertise in the field of culture.</p><p>Concrete outputs of the project include revisions of policy or legislative frameworks, a pool of resource persons operational in Eritrea to effectively implement the 2003 Convention; and an inventory of intangible cultural heritage elaborated with the broad participation of at least one community.</p>
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2. Background/Context

Eritrea is situated in the Horn of Africa, connecting the continent with Middle East and Asia. As a powerful crossroad for trade, Eritrea has managed to create a strong cultural identity of its own by keeping alive its oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship while accepting influences from other continents. Hence, Eritrea offers a vibrant living cultural heritage, testament of all the cultural influences gathered in the region along centuries.

Eritrea has nine ethno-linguistic groups each with distinct cultural expressions. Out of them, Tigrinya is the dominant group both demographically and politically. But even the intangible heritage within Tigrinya ethnic group remains undocumented and largely ignored in development strategies. Similarly the other groups such as the Kunama, Nara, Bilen, Sahao, Afar, Tigre and others remain without safeguarding support.

In general, the role of cultural heritage is insufficiently appreciated in Eritrea because of the long war of liberation during which national priorities concentrated on issues such as external relations, food security and health. However, the Eritrean Constitution supports the promotion of culture and a National Cultural Policy was elaborated, but it has not been adopted. The recent efforts by government has raised interest among the new generation of Eritreans and the Diaspora who are now eager to improve the international image of the country through cultural festivals and public performances that are aimed at promoting the multicultural diversity of Eritrea. The political actors also seem to slowly have begun to understand and appreciate the value and promotion of heritage as resources for nation building and sustainable development but inadequate professional capacity and financial resources have been a hindrance.

Culture in Eritrea is managed through the Cultural Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Education. The Cultural Affairs Bureau works together with other institutions such as the National Museum of Eritrea and the Eritrea Documentation and Research Center, under the umbrella body responsible for implementation of all the cultural conventions, is the Sub-Eritrean World Heritage Committee (EWHC). Because numerous organisations deal with intangible cultural heritage and due to their lack of experience, coordination is relatively poor, unlike the tangible cultural heritage protection where implementation of the 1972 Convention is well organised and prioritised.

In 2009, through UNESCO's support, a national workshop on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage was organised in Eritrea. The workshop also discussed the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of heritage in Eritrea. This workshop served as a platform for some of the major stakeholders active in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to be introduced to the 2003 Convention and its meaning and interpretation at national level. As a result of this workshop, and other forums, Eritrea ratified the 2003 Convention in 2010 and translated the Convention into Tigrinya, one of the national languages.

Furthermore, officials from the Cultural Affairs Bureau have participated in some UNESCO meetings related to intangible cultural heritage. At the 2011 regional workshop on intangible cultural heritage organised in Mombasa, Kenya, two participants from the Cultural Affairs Bureau presented a report on the status of intangible cultural heritage in Eritrea. According to their report, the public is generally aware of cultural heritage, oral traditions and folklore, but most stakeholders are not familiar with the concept of ICH. Practicing of intangible cultural heritage elements is only evidenced in local and national festivals and live cultural performances. There is also awareness demonstrated by state media which highlights specific aspects and elements of ICH without necessarily linking these to the safeguarding of neither ICH nor the 2003 Convention. Although most government project activities in Eritrea are funded by the government, in general, just like in many other countries, culture in Eritrea is not prioritised for government funding, let alone intangible cultural heritage.

Hence, there has not been adequate stakeholder involvement in all the processes undertaken by the government regarding the 2003 Convention. As a result, stakeholders and communities at national level are not aware of the 2003 Convention, nor understand its scope, provisions and objectives. Furthermore, capacity at policy level to spearhead the process is limited both in terms of numbers of personnel and their expertise to be able to inform, organise and coordinate stakeholders around the 2003 Convention. For this Convention to be implemented effectively, there is a need for mobilization and coordination of various stakeholders to better define their respective roles and responsibilities.

Against this background, this project is pertinent and timely for Eritrea as the project will help build capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promoting the 2003 Convention by involving stakeholders that are managing culture down to communities themselves. It is hoped that with this project, the process for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Eritrea will be taken to a higher level.

3. Objectives and expected results

Development objectives

- To enable Eritrea to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, thereby contributing to sustainable development at local and national levels.
- To promote better visibility of intangible cultural heritage, awareness of its significance and function in society, and mutual respect for the heritage of others, thereby fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace.

Immediate objectives

- To assist Eritrea to meet national obligations under the 2003 Convention, in particular with regards to inventory-making and other safeguarding measures.
- To build a critical level of national capacity, (policy, legal, and institutional framework and human resource expertise) for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention.
- To increase the possibilities of Eritrea to benefit from the Convention's mechanisms of international cooperation, including International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

Expected results

- Increased national awareness about the 2003 Convention and better understanding of its international mechanisms and national obligations.
- National capacity built for the implementation of the Convention in particular in areas of policy and legislation; community based inventorying, preparing international requests to the ICH Fund and elaborating nominations to the Lists under the Convention.
- Policies and legislation revised in favour of intangible heritage and proposals made towards establishing an institutional framework for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Increased knowledge about community-based inventorying.

4. Project Justification

The first cycles of implementation of the Convention highlighted States Parties' need to gain a more complete understanding of the different mechanisms established under the Convention as well as build the human resources or technical know-how necessary to implement the Convention effectively. States Parties themselves have also recognized these needs and have frequently requested that their safeguarding efforts be supported by capacity-building activities organized by UNESCO on different aspects of the Convention.

Most often, States Parties lack awareness of the measures and mechanisms of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at national and international levels. At the same time, they lack the necessary resources to implement the Convention. In some cases, States Parties have not yet advanced sufficiently in the work of inventorying their ICH, which is a prerequisite before an element can be nominated. But even in States that wish to submit nominations and have already begun inventorying, the process of nomination is itself daunting, particularly the elaboration of a complete and adequate nomination file. It is an urgent task to help developing countries to implement the Convention more effectively at the national level and to better benefit from the mechanisms at the international level.

To respond to these significant needs, UNESCO launched a global strategy aimed at strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage during the biennium of 2010 to 2011 and UNESCO's strategic emphasis is on strengthening capacities of national counterparts to ratify the Convention, meet their obligations for safeguarding, and benefit from the opportunities and mechanisms of international cooperation created under the Convention. More recently UNESCO has extended the strategy in response to the recommendations of review meetings and an evaluation carried out by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Section. The 'updated' strategy foresees (i) a strengthened component on policy and legislative development, covering the integration of provisions for safeguarding in both, cultural and other relevant development policies, (ii) an extension of the inventorying component to cover also capacity-building for the elaboration of community-driven safeguarding plans (iii) intensified training on how to elaborate International Assistance requests and, finally, (iv) a thorough and systematic consideration of gender perspectives in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

The UNESCO Secretariat of the Convention is in charge of developing training content and materials for the capacity-building strategy. The existing modules on ratifying the Convention, implementing it at the national level and elaborating nominations were recently updated to reflect the latest decisions of the governing bodies. The topic of how to elaborate requests for preparatory assistance for nomination files was added. The module on community-based inventorying was substantially expanded to include new units on documentation, data use and storage and the transition from inventorying to safeguarding.

The units on acquiring practical skills for inventorying were revised to add concrete examples, role play and hands-on exercises. The translation and editing of these sets of materials in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic continues. The translation and editing of these sets of materials in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic continued and a new design and packaging was developed to increase their educational effectiveness and ease of reproduction. Materials were subsequently tested in English, and are now at different stages of revision, completion, editing and translation into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. Furthermore, new materials are being developed in three content areas: (i) sustainable development, (ii) gender and (iii) safeguarding.

The approach adopted in developing these materials has been to emphasize the need to adapt them to local contexts and audiences. They suggest interactivity and active learning, using for instance simulations and role-playing activities. To ensure their quality and relevance, these materials have been reviewed by internationally recognized experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage, in cooperation with pedagogical experts.

In addition, a global network of 79 expert facilitators (43% from Africa and 40% women) has been established and trained to use and adapt the materials developed through the strategy. These well-trained experts are now available to conduct workshops on the priority themes. So far some 65 countries have benefited from the global strategy in enhancing their capacities for safeguarding living heritage. Eritrea, which requested to receive assistance to enhance its capacity for the implementation of the 2003 Convention will thus benefit from the lessons learnt from implementing the global strategy, the services of the UNESCO-trained facilitators, the training materials and prior experiences in providing advisory services on policy and legal issues.

This extrabudgetary project enables an integrated capacity-building strategy that will systematically cover the core concepts of the Convention and provide the country with a thorough understanding of their obligations at national level, and a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention. The Project will help demonstrate to government officials and stakeholders how implementation of the Convention can be done at a practical level; including such activities as policy revision, community-based inventorying, preparing requests for International Assistance and preparing nominations on the lists established under the Convention. Planned to be conducted over a substantial time period of 24 months, this integrated capacity-building strategy should have a real and lasting impact and equip Eritrea with human resources and technical know-how necessary to implement the Convention.

5. Approach and Methodology

This project aims to assist Eritrea to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage through effective implementation of the Convention. To that end, it aims to build a critical level of national capacity, in government institutions and among key players from civil society and communities, so that there is a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention on a long-term basis.

Methodology

The project will implement an integrated capacity-building strategy, composed of well-prepared workshops and activities, tailored to respond to the identified needs of the country. The main objective is to provide Eritrea with a thorough understanding of their obligations at national level, and a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention. In particular, the project will pay due attention to the adequacy of institutional environments, abilities to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks and the availability of national expertise in the field of culture.

The above-mentioned UNESCO training materials will be used for these workshops and activities. Experts responsible for conducting the workshops and activities will be selected from the pool of experts within the region who have already received specific training from UNESCO on using and adapting these materials. The experts will familiarize themselves with the identified needs of the country and will revise the generic training materials prepared by UNESCO to fit local specificities. They will assist in developing the training programmes in collaboration with the UNESCO Nairobi and the national counterparts.

Project initiation

At the beginning of the project UNESCO Office Nairobi and an intangible heritage expert will organise consultation meetings with policy makers and key cultural stakeholders in order to jointly develop an Implementation Plan for the Project. The consultations will involve meetings with core stakeholders in Asmara as well as with civil society, members of academia and selected communities in order to ensure their involvement and participation from the beginning. The process will be led by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and will facilitate agreement on modalities of implementation for each activity, trainers to be used, profile of participants for each

component, as well as identification of the community to be targeted for the inventorying component.

Efforts will be made to formally launch the Project in Asmara with the participation of all the relevant stakeholders including line ministries, representatives of cultural groups and community representatives.

Exit strategy

At the end of the project, a national framework (National Task Team) will be established with roles and responsibilities assigned and agreed upon to carry forward the Implementation Plan. The Task team will also be responsible for finalising activities started by the Project such as elaboration of inventory and Nomination file as well as guiding elaboration of international assistance requests. The National Task Team will develop an Action Plan.

6. The Major Project Activities

Component I: Strengthening Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks (Months 2 to 7)

Eritrea has a Heritage Act which embraces both the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage. The institution in charge of the implementation of all cultural conventions is the Eritrean World Heritage Committee (EWHC) formed by representatives from different Ministries and authorities and this committee works under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education. Although it has a Sub Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is mostly inclined to safeguarding historical and archaeological sites.

In this regard support will be provided to facilitate review of existing policies and legal frameworks in different fields (culture, education, health, agriculture, tourism, etc.) in order to ensure that ICH is safeguarded in the spirit of the Convention and in conformity with codes of ethics, and while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of the ICH and with community participation. Special attention will be paid to gender in order to elaborate provisions that are gender-sensitive and responsive. Along the same lines, the process will also help in proposing a structure/framework with competent bodies and institutions that will be able to assist in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, particularly as regards awareness raising, promotion, capacity building, research, inventorying, and documenting.

Special attention shall be made so that the policy review, legal framework and proposed institutional structure encourages coordination between all stakeholders as well as ministries and institutions other than those in the cultural field such as agriculture, education health etc., as all these have a role to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In this way it will be possible for the country to create policy, legal and institutional framework that is able to facilitate the required inter-sectoral mechanism for cooperation and coordination for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

One national expert and one international expert will collect information related to all the existing legal frameworks and their associated implementing institutions. The information collected will be analysed with the aim of identifying gaps and challenges. A Draft Report with recommendations and a proposed Action Plan for improving the legal and institutional framework will be tabled at a stakeholders' meeting to be organised by the Project Coordination team. The Meeting will discuss, validate and/or adopt the Report, its recommendations and Action Plan and agree on how to implement it in order to improve the situation.

Outputs for Component I

- *Awareness about the safeguarding of intangible heritage and the 2003 Convention raised;*
- *Existing policies and legal frameworks reviewed in a way that facilitates coordination between all stakeholders that have a role to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;*
- *Appropriate Institutional framework proposed to facilitate inter-sectoral mechanism for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.*

Component II: Community-based Inventorying: Training & Fieldwork (Months 4 to 11)

Elaboration of inventories is necessary for effective safeguarding of ICH. Indeed, it is the first step of a safeguarding process and thus the main objective of inventorying is safeguarding (and not documentation as such) for the well-being of the community concerned. Inventories furthermore help policy makers and ICH practitioners to be aware of the range of ICH practiced within their borders, and helps them to understand the challenges of safeguarding such elements. As regards the international mechanisms of the Convention, inventorying is in fact required for nominating an element to one of the Convention's lists: the Representative List or the Urgent Safeguarding List. The inventory also clarifies, on which list an element could possibly be inscribed.

Activity 1: Workshop : Community based Inventorying

Eritrea has not elaborated an inventory within the context of the ICH Convention. A pilot community based inventorying activity will be undertaken. The Project Coordination Team will select one community for community based inventorying exercise. They will also purchase the necessary equipment needed for inventorying. Once a community has been selected a Local Coordination Team will be established which will be led by the Local Office of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

A ten-day workshop on community based inventorying will be organized in the selected community. This training will provide fundamental principles and practical information on community-based inventorying, using UNESCO's training manual as a guide. The first 6 days will be 'classroom' style training activities aimed at conveying the essential features of inventorying under the Convention as well as developing inventory framework, and technical skills in identification and documentation. The last 4 days will be field-based practicum, carrying out inventorying work in small groups in three or four field locations. These locations will be identified by the Local Coordination Team. Then participants will return to the classroom to focus on organizing the data collected from the field work and to exchange experiences and consolidate their newly acquired skills.

As far as possible the number and profile of participants to this workshop will be determined during the consultation meetings. A minimum of 25 participants will be expected to participate in the workshop; five national cultural officers, five district cultural officers and 15 community members who are themselves the bearers of heritage and the only ones, under the 2003 Convention, who can identify and define whether something is or is not part of their heritage.

The training workshop will be facilitated by one international UNESCO expert identified by UNESCO from the network of trainers supported by a national expert with some knowledge of intangible heritage who will have participated in previous training workshops on intangible heritage.

Activity 2: Fieldwork : Community based Inventorying

The workshop will be followed by a three month field work to be undertaken by the 15 members of the communities who will have received the community based inventorying training

programme. A Local Coordination Team will provide support for the field work. The Local Coordination Team will be led by the national expert who had been part of the Training Team. They will guide the community members in terms of how to inventory, but especially, also guiding compilation of information collected into an inventory. The results of the fieldwork will be compiled as Eritrea's first inventory. The government will be encouraged to have this first inventory translated into local language.

Some elements will be selected from the field experience which will be used as case studies for the subsequent workshop on preparing nomination files and requests for international assistance under Component III.

Outputs for Component II

- *25 people (officials, experts, civil society and community members) trained in inventory making;*
- *Field work on community inventorying undertaken;*
- *1 draft inventory elaborated.*

Component III: Workshop: Preparing Nomination Files and International Assistance Requests (Months 12 to 13)

A five day workshop focused on the elaboration of requests for International Assistance to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and on preparation of nomination files for inscription on the Lists under the Convention will be organised through the Project Coordination Team. The training will target government officials, as well as members of the academia and experts from civil society. In total, 20 people are expected to benefit from this training.

Through the workshop, the participants will acquire the basic knowledge and skills required to elaborate nominations to the Two Lists under the 2003 Convention, notably the Urgent Safeguarding List and Representative List. They will also acquire skills in the preparation of requests for International Assistance. One international UNESCO trained expert, supported by a national expert will facilitate the training workshop.

At the end of the workshop, participants will also select a core group of experts to create a National Task Team that will be given responsibility to spearhead implementation of the recommendations made during the implementation of the different activities for the safeguarding of intangible heritage in Eritrea.

Outputs for Component III

- *20 people (government officials, cultural experts, academia and civil society) trained in the elaboration of requests for International Assistance and preparation of nomination files;*

7. Risk Analysis and Mitigation

The project may be confronted with risks that might impact the scope of the results.

The first risk is lack of political will by government to prioritise the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and accepting the Project as important. This would make it difficult to engage with stakeholders at all level which is important for implementation especially the need for cooperation of various Ministries in the revision of legal and policy frameworks. In order for the project to have an impact, the participants to the various activities will need to be drawn not only from the field of culture but also from other fields, since intangible cultural heritage is an invaluable resource for finding local solutions to pressing development challenges, i.e. food

security, health, social cohesion. Therefore it will be important to involve government at the planning stage in order for them to buy-in and jointly develop an implementation plan.

The prevailing security situation along the southern coast and border areas is a source of concern, as it remains volatile and continues to be affected by territorial conflicts. The project, however, will mitigate the risk by targeting communities living in areas considered politically stable. Associated with this is the risk concerning possible lack of commitment and availability for the project for long periods of time by the community members for the inventorying process. This will be mitigated by ensuring that the right community is selected, where there is peace and the community has the passion for its heritage and is willing to share.

With regard to the activities themselves, there is also risk of not having the right experts and participants for the various planned activities. This would ultimately affect the achievement of the objectives as delivery will be poor and capacity will be given to people who will not be able to carry forward the work and sustainability will be jeopardized. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring that the right experts who understand the local context and are familiar with training tools are selected to facilitate the various processes and that the profile of participants selected have authority and passion to carry forward safeguarding of Intangible heritage and implementation of the Convention.

The project might encounter problems associated with rules regarding transfer of funds to Eritrea and other administrative issues. These risks can be mitigated by ensuring to include stakeholders that may not be directly involved in the project but their decisions might have an impact such as the Ministry of Finance.

8. Monitoring

Regular monitoring will be done by UNESCO Nairobi in collaboration with Intangible Cultural Heritage Section. This will be a continuous process throughout the duration of the Project in order to ensure that the implementation of the project respects the work plan, budget and the timeline. Follow-up will be made on each activity with experts and national authorities, ensuring that status reports are done against outputs foreseen as qualitative and quantitative indicators. This will ensure that challenges and problems are identified early and discussed with the national counterparts and the donor as appropriate in order to undertake corrective actions.

9. Reporting

For workshops; evaluation forms will be submitted by participants after each workshop. These will be examined and used to determine the qualitative and quantitative outputs as well as challenges faced and will also inform implementation of subsequent activities with corrective actions undertaken. Most importantly, throughout the implementation period, Reports will be prepared for each activity by experts/national authorities as required and submitted to UNESCO Nairobi. UNESCO Nairobi will in turn consolidate these reports for internal reporting requirements and submission to the donor at different stages during the implementation process. At the end of the Project a Final Narrative Report will submitted to the Donor.

10. Evaluation

Efforts will be made to undertake an evaluation at each stage of implementation of the project in order to assess quality and success in the implementation of the activities and progress towards expected results, challenges and lessons learnt. A final evaluation will be carried out by UNESCO Nairobi at the end of the Project through consultations with stakeholders in particular policy makers in order to establish with them the results of the project, and the way forward.

11. Visibility

UNESCO Nairobi and Intangible Cultural Heritage Section will disseminate information about the project through websites (www.unesco.org/culture/ich/; <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/nairobi>). UNESCO Nairobi Office will attempt to mobilize national media to cover the project; to the extent possible leaders and key members of the communities concerned by the project will be associated to visibility activities.

The donor's support will be mentioned on the website and in all documents emanating from this project. The project will also receive attention at the occasion of statutory meetings through relevant working documents and presentations by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention. Furthermore, the Government of Norway or their local representatives will be invited to key activities during the implementation of the project.

12. Follow-Up and Sustainability: National Task Team

This project has been devised to maximize its sustainability and multiplier effect. Indeed, it aims to create in Eritrea a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention built upon a critical level of national capacity, both in government institutions and among key players from communities and civil society.

It is expected that during the Project Implementation Process, some experts who will have shown that they have understood the mechanism and processes for the implementation of the Convention will be selected to constitute a National Task Team. The Team will be responsible for continuing with the various activities agreed upon during Project implementation especially inventorying. In particular, implementing various recommendations and proposals for policy review, legal and institutional frameworks. They will also be responsible for working on beginning preparing requests for international assistance and at least one nomination file.

13. Project Coordination

UNESCO Nairobi is responsible for the overall implementation of the project with support by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section. At national level a Project Coordination Team will be established to coordinate implementation of the activities. The team will be supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

14. Technical assistance

UNESCO will provide a pool of expertise from the region, who have been trained by UNESCO specifically for the purpose of capacity-building in the framework of the 2003 Convention. These will be used to facilitate the various activities under the close supervision of the Nairobi Office, and back-up of the ICH Section. All the workshop and activity documents, including the trainer's and trainee's manuals will be provided by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and adapted by the selected trainer as appropriate.

15. Equipment

At the beginning of the project the Cultural Affairs Bureau will purchase, in consultation with UNESCO Nairobi, the following items to be used (the table below indicates which institutions/communities will principally be responsible for the management and use of the equipment during the period of the project).

Items	Quantity	Responsible Organization	To be used by
Laptops	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Coordination

			Team
Accessories (e.g. USB keys, anti-virus software)	Divers	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Team Coordination
Handheld recorders	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Local community
Microphones	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Local community
Printers	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Team Coordination

Care will be taken to purchase equipment from local suppliers which provide after-sales service in case of need for maintenance. Upon termination of the project the equipment will be handed over to the implementing partners in consultation with the Cultural Affairs Bureau.