



# **Impact of the Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Lakalaka, Sung Speeches with Choreographed Movements**

**A UNESCO Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible  
Heritage of Humanity**

**UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation  
and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

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# Impact of the Project

- An increase in awareness
- An increase in interest and pride
- An increase in profile
- An increase in the transmission from generation to generation





# awareness

Awareness was a constant aspect of the project.

There were various awareness programs on television, radio and through the newspapers.

In the lead up to the coronation, Albert had 30minutes on TV to promote events and the program for the festivities.



# awareness

Awareness of the Lakalaka as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and of the National Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Lakalaka, Sung Speeches with Choreographed Movements and activities associated with the coronation lead to an increase of interest, pride and profile of the Lakalaka



# interest & pride

Over the last 3 years there has been a lot of exposure of the ICH – the Lakalaka, and other aspects of Tonga culture and tradition through the project. This has created a renewed energy, interest and pride in the Lakalaka and traditional culture in Tonga.

Parents have begun to ask that their children could understudy/train with various practitioners as they have come to realise that the knowledge and skills of the Lakalaka need to be kept and shared.





# profile

Before 2005 the Lakalaka was performed, but it was not given the recognition nationally or internationally, that has been developed now.

This project and the 2008 Coronation have provided a platform to showcase the Lakalaka and Tonga culture and tradition and develop pride for the Lakalaka and other aspects of traditional culture and ICH.



# the coronation

Traditionally communities performed the Lakalaka during important celebrations such as coronations and the opening of important buildings. Tonga celebrates such events with festivals and competitions.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 a new King was crowned. During the coronation celebrations 5 Lakalaka's were performed, of which 3 were newly created. During the two week celebrations an associated festival was held which constituted a national showcase of the Lakalaka and the project.





# transmission

This has been a major component of the project.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Women Affairs and Culture, a series of Lakalaka festivals were organised to provide awareness and training opportunities for the young people of Tonga.



# transmission

As a result of the project and the profile created after the Coronation, other Lakalaka festivals and activities have been organised by Church and other organisations and institutions.

For instance last Friday, I was fortunate to attend a rehearsal of a group of youth from a village for the Free Wesley Church competition being held later this month

















# passion & understanding

Albert himself is a Lakalaka performer his knowledge and skills have been passed on from his father.

This has been a great asset to the management and impact of the project.

Through his passion for this dance form, from his understanding of the Lakalaka, he has been able to use his network of Puke, composers, choreographer, and performers, which have support the project and the work being done.





# result

This project; documentation and research, youth competitions and awareness, and the coronation have all assisted in the safeguarding, transmission and revitalisation of the Laklalaka Sung Speeches with Choreographed Movements.

They have also assisted in developing and enhancing the profile, peoples interest and pride of and in the Lakalaka within Tonga and with the Tongan Communities outside of the country.