



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

MID-TERM NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Beneficiary State Party: El Salvador

Project title:	Titajtakezakan. Speaking across time: oral tradition and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
Time frame:	Starting date: 13/02/2017 Completion date: 13/07/2018
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$43.365,00</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$24,995.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">State Party contributions: US\$18,150.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Other contributions: US\$220.00</p>
Implementing agency:	Secretary of Culture of the Presidency, National Direction for Cultural Heritage
Implementing partners:	Educational Complex of Santo Domingo, Mayor's Office of Santo Domingo de Guzman, ADESCOIN and ADESCOMAI (community development associations)
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms.</p> <p>Family name: Alarcón Reyna</p> <p>Given name: Sandra Yanira</p> <p>Institution/position: Chief of Department of Cultural Assets Registry</p> <p>Address: Anthropology National Museum David J. Guzmán. Avenue La Revolución s/n, colonia San Benito. San Salvador, El Salvador.</p> <p>Telephone number: (503) 22433761</p> <p>E-mail address: salarcon@cultura.gob.sv</p>

Background and rationale

Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focussed on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.

Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words

During the year 2014-2015 The National Direction of Cultural and Natural Heritage made a progress of documentation and consultation to impulse the declaration of the Nahuat Language as cultural property, and as an urgent action because of the risk that is currently having (according to UNESCO it is at risk of extinction).

The oral tradition of the populations of Nahuatl speakers is one of the ways in which the language is sustained and transmitted.

The social and cultural function of the oral tradition is constituted by being a specific form of communicating and understanding the world and society, thus granting social cohesion contained in the senses, thoughts, behaviors, and values that are transmitted through the mythology, tales and legends. In addition, it represents the identity and history of the native peoples of the Salvadoran nation, the cultural diversity existing in the country and human creativity as a product of a cultural, social and historical process, forming the heritage of the ancestors and native peoples of the nation, giving identity to the Salvadoran nation.

The declaration as Cultural Property granted by the Secretary of Culture of the presidency is a governmental administrative action of recognition towards a particular element of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the nation, which the Special Law of Protection to the Cultural Patrimony of El Salvador empowers to the Secretary of Culture to do it.

This process involved the consultation and feedback of the inventory records of the language with the participation of indigenous communities, especially those located in four locations in the west of the country: Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Cuisnahuat, Nahuizalco and Tacuba; who gave their endorsement for the declaration as heirs and carriers of the Nahuat language today.

In this context, the development of an inventory of oral tradition (myths, tales, and legends) was identified as a safeguard measure linked to recognition as a Cultural Property, in addition to contributing to identify local initiatives that work to safeguard indigenous culture and The Nahuat language of Santo Domingo de Guzmán.

From the consultation in Santo Domingo de Guzman it was registered that there are no materials that are published or elaborated in the Nahuat language or in Spanish about traditions of the locality, therefore, the inventory seeks to resolve this lack in some way, with the Use of the TICs the material will be available for everyone, not only available for the people from Santo Domingo de Guzmán.

In addition, during the consultation it was recognized that there is little interest from the young people in order to preserve and knowing their cultural manifestations, what traditions and customs are not being transmitted to the new generations, due to the little interest and the latent social discredit; The inclusion of young people to this process is in the way of reducing the stigmatization towards the local culture, in addition to this, get them close to the elderly (people 70 - 80 years), who are the ones who speak and tell the stories in their native language ; The non-transmission of knowledge linked to the oral tradition put at a greater risk the continuity of the language and the oral tradition itself.

Finally, it was also identified that formal education does not include any component of interculturality or recognition of cultural manifestations, reason why joining to the Santo Domingo de Guzmán Educational Complex is the way to raise awareness about the PCI

(Intangible Cultural Heritage) and developing methodologies to be replicated afterwards. It is also sought, that in the coming years the school will resume the same methodology to continue with the dynamics generated by the project.

Objectives and results attained

Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focussing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

Four months after the start of the project, it is considered that the specific objectives do not represent the highest achievement; some of its results do reflect considerable progress.

The project set out two specific objectives:

The objective one is to: "identify and document the oral tradition of Santo Domingo de Guzmán with the support of young students through the use of TICs", with their result "young people are capable to work on inventorying of the oral tradition contained in mythology, stories and legends of Santo Domingo de Guzmán with the use of TICs", reporting its progress from the training workshops on PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage) and TICs.

Participants acknowledge the PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage), the importance and the elaboration of inventories; they have also approached to the interview tool to obtain information on the elaboration of the local oral tradition inventory. It was verified through a short questionnaire about what was learned in the PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage) workshop, the impressions have been positive, they recognize their little previous knowledge about the PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage) and its learning about its importance and the culture of its municipality.

About the use of TICs, the participants are able to publish in a propositive way in social networks, under the scheme of communication in networks. They are also able to create and edit their own static web sites and recognize the HTML language, with which they can publish content about their own PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage); Differentiate in addition, the web and internet environment. And lastly, they use technological tools for dissemination, publication in a responsible way, it has been possible to differentiate and define the communication needs of both, the Educational Complex, its students and the project.

In addition, the participants have approached to the older adults. Talks were held with the elderly, who were informed about the importance of their participation in the elaboration of the inventory of oral tradition, it was clarified that it will be carried out with their consent, as bearers of knowledge about oral tradition.

At this point, we have the endorsement of at least 26 elderly adults to be interviewed about oral tradition.

Participants conducted interviews on oral tradition in the last weeks of June, which allowed a progress in the field work and in the development of the young people in the methodology of the interview, who are confident in the work of interviewing the bearers of culture.

An extra result has been the support of an engineering professional who supports with classes of reinforcement in mathematics, because it was identified that the participants had difficulties in this matter and to attend the activities of the project implied not attending to some hours of mathematics class; so this type of support was managed for them.

Objective two "to prepare and disseminate material on the oral tradition of Santo Domingo de Guzmán through the use of TICs"; No progress is reported until the execution of its activities in the coming months.

Description of project implementation

Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.) Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.

Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words

To the date of the report, 6 of 15 activities have been implemented; these activities were established in the project plan. The activities carried out are:

1. Development of a meeting with relevant actors, including the Santo Domingo Educational Complex, a group with traditional culture bearers, the initiative 'Cuna Náhuatl', the administrative authorities to elaborate a detailed plan of the project, constituting the main product of this activity. This activity favored the preparation of the start of project execution and the establishment of responsibilities of the strategic partners, who have assumed their commitment in various forms and levels.

2. The Selection of 25 young people to involve them in the project. Prior to the selection, meetings were held with the coordinating teachers (8th, 9th and 1st year of high school) to explain the project and its execution. Subsequently, through a selection profile, the grade coordinators were in charge of urging students to participate in the project on a voluntary basis. Once this was done, parents were summoned to inform on what their sons and daughters would be participating in, and to have their endorsement. Finally, a meeting was given to the young people selected to explain in more detail the activities of the project.

The main product of the activity was a list of 25 students from 8th, 9th and 1st year of high school who have joined the project.

3. Eight sessions were given to young people selected to train them on the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), specifically about their identification, inventories, documentation and registration of the oral tradition contained in mythology, stories and legends.

The main objective is the knowledge acquired by the ICH participants and inventories; also a support material was prepared according to the specific needs and themes addressed. This material was delivered to each participant.

In this activity, the graphic material (brochure and banners) was anticipated as a product; however there have been delays because there are few companies that want to offer the services to government institutions due to the time of the administrative process, payment is not immediate. Several companies were searched to remedy the deficiency, at the moment the requirement is in process respective.

The difficulties experienced were the inconsistency of some students to participate. There were some days that the participation was only of 17 young people. Faced with this situation, teachers were encouraged to engage the students and remind them about the opportunity to participate. On the other hand, the teachers involved in the project did not participate in all the days because of the responsibilities they have in the school.

4. Achievement of two community talks about the project and the inventory process, which was presented by 4 young participants. For the activities, we worked side by side with the Educational Complex, House of Culture and Municipal City Hall. Elderly adults, mostly Nahuatl speakers, were summoned to fully involve them in the project as culture bearers. The final product is a list of older adults willing to be interviewed by the participants about the local oral tradition, the list includes the name of the person, age, stories to be counted, contact, time available to interview, place where the interview can take place; this is, it was obtained a first list of the material to be documented linked to its culture carriers was obtained.

5. Development of 9 training sessions for the participants on the topic of information and

communication technologies (ICTs), specifically on computer tools, HTML language, web pages, blogs, social networks.

Its main objective is the ICT training, in addition, a specific support material was developed on the topics addressed and was given to each participant.

The participation of the young people has been positive, in the sense that there is less absence of participation because they have been integrated in the project to their school dynamics, in addition some changes were made, some young people gave up participating and others joined replacing the people who left, this last part, we consider that does not affect the overall development of the project.

6. In relation to the activity of collecting information about the oral tradition related to mythology, stories and legends, progress has been made with the realization of 4 interviews. The culture bearers previously gave their consent to be interviewed. The product of this activity is under construction, it sought to perform at least 30 interviews with emphasis on Nahuatl speakers, with photography's, audio and video support of each interview. At the beginning of this activity, the problem was identified that the parents were dissatisfied with the extra activities they were having in the school, so that, together with the Educational Complex, an information meeting with them was established to explain the progress and the upcoming activities in which their sons and daughters would be participating.

In addition, there are professional staff in anthropology have been contracted with the project funds to support with the preparation of interviews. This has allowed a greater control over the quality of the material obtained.

According to the contract No. 4500323040, the start of the project would begin on February 18, 2017, however, the project began in his full execution on April 26, experiencing a two month lag, during that time the transfer of the money was executed, from the donation and the first requirements were made to begin the execution of the activities with their respective budget, in addition it was expected that they spent the Easter holidays not to interfere with the execution of the activity of the training workshops with the participating students.

The first two activities were executed on time: the elaboration of a detailed work plan and the budget with the participants and related partners; and the selection of the 25-young people. After these activities, we waited two months for the preparation of requirements for the use of the funds according to the internal and administrative procedures of the executing agency, time necessary to begin with the full execution of the project with the funds granted.

The lag time was tried to be reduced by carrying out the activity of small talks to the community immediately after the ICH training workshop, so that the activities corresponding to the recollection of information about the oral tradition was carried out parallel to the training workshop on the use of ICTs.

In relation to the commitments and supports by the strategic partners, in particular, the Educational Complex of Santo Domingo de Guzmán has granted the requested support regarding the ease of use of the school's facilities. At the beginning we experienced the absence of some students in the ICH workshop but we consider that it has been surpassed, to date we have a more or less constant group of 22 - 26 young people who actively participate in the project, it is worth mentioning that at the beginning of the project the municipality was experiencing some acts of violence and we make a reading of non-attendance by those events; the same has not happened with the assistance of teachers who have not been able to participate fully during the training but have been monitoring the development of the trainings and attend the follow-up meetings. As for the strategic partner of the City Hall have shown support in specific activities such as talks with the community.

Community involvement

Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of financial support, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

In the activities carried out to date, the community involved is represented in the active participation of the 22 - 26 young people who have joined as protagonists of the project. To date they have participated in the training workshops and have been assimilating the concepts and objectives of the project.

The young participants have an active participation by informing the community about the inventory process, and they were the people who have the chance to interact, at that first time with the seniors, who assisted to the activity in May.

Elderly people have also been involved, among them Nahuatl speakers who are the bearers of knowledge about the local oral tradition, through two talks offered to this sector. The lectures were given by the young people who participated in the project, who explained in public events (one in the municipal park and another one in the educational complex) to the attendees about what was learned in the workshops, the preparation of the inventory, the use of the information.

The young people made a list of culture bearers to be interviewed, at the same time established at what time of day and where they preferred to be interviewed. With this list the first interviews performed were planned that correspond to the activity of collecting information about the oral tradition, the interviews will continue in full during the months of July and August.

The Cuna Náhuatl was another of the sectors that was established in the application, as a community to be integrated into the project. They were invited to participate in the project activities. However, their participation will be reflected later, at the time of the review of the material collected in Nahuatl for its dissemination.

Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:

- *Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.*
- *Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.*
- *Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community(ies) in particular has been promoted.*
- *Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage.).*

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

At the moment, we cannot grant any arguments about this point. The final report will be completed.

Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- Attainment of expected results
- Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement
- Delivery of project outputs
- Project management and implementation
- Sustainability of the project after the financial assistance

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

As an executing agency, four months after the start of the project, we can argue that some lessons learned, we hope can be reinforcing while the project continues developing.

Firstly, we consider important to strengthen the coordination relationships with the parents of the participants, who are responsible for the selected young people, they should be constantly informed about the project and the responsibilities acquired by their children in the framework of the project. The participation of these young people depends entirely up to them, especially in the activities related to interviewing, when the development area is not the school center but other places in the municipality.

In this same line, it is necessary to continue coordinating with local institutions such as the Casa de la Cultura, Municipal Office and Educational Complex of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, to continue the execution of the project; they are instances that have recognition in the population of the municipality and introducing us with them gives us seriousness to what is being implemented.

Secondly, in terms of project management and implementation, we observe the need to establish less adjusted times taking into account the internal processes of the executing agency, the requirements for the liquidation of the funds are several and take considerable time for the implementation.

Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

- publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable
- progress reports prepared during the contract period
- list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period
- other (please specify)

1. Photography report of activities executed
2. Support material for workshop trainings about PCI (Intangible Cultural Heritage)
3. Graphic Material (banners and brochures)
4. Press releases of Secretary of Culture of the Presidency about the project
5. Equipment given for the project
6. List of students selected as participants for the project

Name and signature of the person having completed the report.

Name: Ana María Mata Parducci

Title: PCI technician in the Cultural Assets Registry Department

Date: 30/06/2017

Signature: 

