



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

## International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH	
Le	21 AOUT 2018
N°	.....

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

### PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies):

Project title:	Strengthening capacity in Seychelles for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage
Reporting period:	From: 17/02/2017 to: 16/04/2018
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$94.932.50</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$90.000.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">State Party contribution: US\$4.932.50</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Other contributions: US\$NONE</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	National Heritage Research & Protection Section/ Department of Culture
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms.</p> <p>Family name: Barra</p> <p>Given name: Julienne</p> <p>Institution/position: Director General Culture</p> <p>Address: Cultural Centre, victoria, Mahe</p> <p>Telephone number: 2484321333 ext 8004/ 2482724637</p> <p>E-mail address: barrajulienne@yahoo.co.uk</p>
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	UNESCO National Commission
Implementing partners:	UNESCO-ICH, Department of Culture, National Commission

## Background

*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*

Seychelles is a small island state comprising of 115 islands, 3 main inhabited islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue and a population of approximately 98,000 people originating from 3 continents; Africa, Asia and Europe. Our cultural heritage especially our intangible cultural heritage is a reflection of this mixed origin.

The safeguarding of Seychelles' ICH falls under the direct responsibility of the Department of Culture. The National Heritage Research and Protection Section has been working on the inventory of the Seychelles intangible cultural heritage for the past few years, identifying and collecting relevant information. Inventorying is part of our obligation under the 2003 convention for the safeguarding of ICH, which we ratified in 2005. However, one of the factors hindering progress in regards to the inventorying and the safeguarding of ICH in Seychelles is the limited human resources. The few individuals who have some basic training, which is mainly in heritage protection and preservation as a whole, needs to be updated on current practices. There is a need to build upon existing knowledge and skills. These are the individuals who will use their training to support the objectives of the ICH safeguarding plan in the future. There is also a need to better engage the community in the safeguarding of ICH in order to complement the work that the Department of Culture is doing. After all, the community is the custodians of our heritage and they need to be more aware of the various possibilities of different elements of our ICH including those such as craftsmanship that can be sources of sustainable economic activity. All members of the community ; old and young, needs to be more actively involved in the transmission, preservation, management, protection, documentation .... of our ICH all in the aim of ensuring that our ICH remains active in the face of adversities including modernisation and globalisation. In order for them to be able to assist in our national safeguarding efforts , the individuals in the community needs to be educated on the best practises to safeguard our ICH. This includes different forms of research from identification and inventorying of ICH, to the collection and documentation of oral traditions and associated tangible elements including artifacts and education and dissemination. We need to ensure as a nation that we all play a role in ensuring that our ICH are transmitted from one generation to another. After all, to keep any element of our ICH alive, for it to remain a living heritage, it needs to remain significant to the community in question. Therefore , the involvement of the community which will be the main beneficiary of any safeguarding effort is therefore vital.

In 2013, the Department of Culture, launched the cultural district award, a program aimed at enhancing the capacity of communities in the districts of Seychelles to recognize, promote and safeguard their own cultural heritage; to offer an opportunity to the communities to showcase their cultural heritage to other communities and foreign visitors and to reduce isolation in communities by creating spaces and opportunities for cultural participation. To note, there is altogether 25 electoral districts in Seychelles and of those 13 districts participated in the award. During the course of the award a lack of knowledge and skills to develop projects related to ICH became apparent. In order for the community to play an active role in the safeguarding of ICH, a capacity building workshop was very much needed. The project will contribute towards the financial stability of the communities that are host to ICH practitioners and knowledge holders , support livelihoods and basically secure the long term viability of safeguarding efforts in Seychelles.

Furthermore, since 2013, the Department of Culture, the National Monuments Board of

Seychelles and all the relevant stakeholders involved with the preservation, conservation and promotion of our cultural heritage has started work on a national heritage bill to replace the existing revised Monuments Act of 1991 which ensured the protection of only our tangible cultural heritage declared as National Monuments of Seychelles. The heritage bill aims to ensure the protection of all aspects of Seychelles's cultural heritage; tangible and intangible cultural heritage including underwater cultural heritage which was not being offered any protection under the existing Act. This workshop ensure that we will be up to date on best practises ergarding safeguarding measures so that we will know exactly what is needed in terms of legal protection for the safeguarding of our ICH so that they are incorporated in the heritage bill, which we plan to complete by the end 2018.

### **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*

The Second project was base on the Production of a strategic document on safeguarding Seychellois ICH as a key contribution to the draft National Heritage Bill .

The objective of the second activities were to enhance the links between ICH and sustainable development in the context of Seychelles within the legislative/institutional frameworks and the National Heritage Bill. It also emphasize the need to involve communities (consultations on revisions to legislative and institutional frameworks).

Results attained:

1. The implementation of the project will effectively reduce the pressure on the limited resources (human, financial and material) of the Department of Culture, when it comes to the safeguarding of Seychelles's Intangible Cultural Heritage. It will build up the sense of ownership of our ICH at the national level and will lead to greater community involvement in safeguarding efforts.
2. The development of the National Heritage Bill to ensure the legal protection of our ICH on a national level.
3. The eventual development of a national strategy for the safeguarding of ICH in the territory of Seychelles.

The second projects managed to attain its objectives. we successfully organized the workshop and five days field trip where 40-45 people from all walks of life, especially from the community manage to learn either about the implementation of the 2003 convention or participate in the drafting of the heritage bill.

### **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 of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.*

*Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words*

After securing funding for the project from the UNESCO-ICH. The project was driven by some key activities that has been defined by the stated objectives as listed below:

Reorganisations of the project implementation team (National Heritage Research &

Protection Section) to coordinate the activities.

Confirmation of international and national consultant

Identification and formal contact with participants and other target groups: Project implementation team consulted with the community to discuss modalities for inventorying their roles and responsibilities. During this process 35 individuals were identified to take part in the training.

Finalization of the content of the workshop and related activities

confirmation of the administrative and logistic aspect of the workshop

Conduct workshop: Two workshops were conducted under the UNESCO's -ICH project. during the first workshop we have manage to raise awarness in regards to the 2003 convention.

During the second workshop we have manage to establish some key issues that needs to be address in the Seychelles heritage Bill. We manage to train around forty five people in reagrad to the formulation of a heritage bills as well as intangible cultural heritage in general.

Some of the participants has some issues in regards to some laws that govern our institutions here in the Seychelles, but with the help of the facilitator Mrs. deirdre Prins Solani, we manage to not only address the issue but to convince and get them to take ownership of their heritage.

After the tree day workshop, the facilitator together with some of the participants went to Praslin and La Digue, second and third largest island of the Seychelles to undertake consultative meeting within the community.

There are two more projects to be implemented under the funding the we received from the UNESCO-ICH.

Monitoring and evaluation: The implementation team shall monitor progress through consultation with identified focal person within the community and carry out mid and final evaluations alongside the on going activities.

### **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 the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.*

*Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words*

The project was planned with the idea of ensuring the participation of the different communities in Seychelles. This was done at district level. There are 25 electoral districts found on the islands of Mahe , Praslin and La Digue and representatives from each of them was involved in the training itself and the subsequent efforts to safeguard ICH at the community level. It is expected that these two projects will lead to the valorisation of local ICH by maximising participation of the local communities in safeguarding of ICH ; inventories, documentation, research, promotion and education.

Ongoing consultation with district cultural committees has already been established through the Cultural District Award program and they have been informed and consulted on these project, the importance of recording their ICH has already been communicated to them and some committees has already begun documenting their ICH. Through discussions with the district cultural committees issues such as the need to provide adequate training in documenting and carrying out inventory of ICH was highlighted and this will be undertake

during the third workshop which will take place in August 2018.

District cultural committee were represented in the two training workshop and a personnel from the Ministry of Community Development, Social Affairs and Sports working directly with the District Administrations, was invited to be a member of the project implementation team.

Furthermore, the individuals trained during the two workshop will become the focal persons for safeguarding ICH in their respective districts, the persons that the National Heritage Research and Protection Section will remain in contact with for any reporting or assistance. The trained individuals will have the capacity to train other members of the community in the areas of inventory, research, preservation, documentation, transmission ... of their community's ICH. They will be able to create awareness of the 2003 convention for safeguarding ICH and the role that the community can play in its implementation.

### **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*

After the two projects has been completed all the stakeholders will continue to benefit either through the implimentation of the heritage bill or the implementation of the 2003 convention in their daily activities as defenders or protectors of our cultural heritage.

Capacity building in the community :

The two projects that has been completed will build up the capacity of the communities on a national level through the different districts on Mahe, Praslin and La digue islands. The participants has acquire the knowledge and skills for identifying, preservation, conservation and promotion of ICH. This training has form the basis for creating awareness regarding the 2003 convention for the safeguarding of ICH at the community level amongst the youth, elders, knowledgede holders and community leaders. They are now in a better position to assist the Department of Culture in the safeguarding efforts by effectively and efficiently manage and valorize the respective ICH in their communities. The knowledge and skills acquired by the participants also have the possibility of contributing towards sustainable cultural tourism through the prospective creative industry.

Capacity building in the organisation:

The staff members of the Department of Culture; from National Heritage Research and Protection Section, National Archives, National Museums, Creole Institute and the Seychelles Heritage Foundation has acquired knowledge and skills in the field of ICH through experience and practical work throughout the years. The two new projects that has been completed has been an opportunity for the members of staff to acquire some formal knowledge in the field of ICH and ensure that we are up to date with the best practices. Well trained staff will lead to a more efficient and effective process for the safeguarding of ICH in Seychelles. We have not been given any additional funding following the projects, however two participants who have their own tourism business has been receiving more clients after

participating in this projects.

### 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 assistance*

*Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words*

**Key lessons learned::**

**Attainment of expected results:**The programs produced by the trained participants within the districts will stimulate the creative industries related to ICH at the district level. The interest in ICH as a source of financial gain and its possibility in contributing to the sustainable cultural tourism marketing strategy by increasing the diversity of cultural activities available in the districts, will no doubt lead to the involvement of other stakeholders such as SENPA ( Small Enterprise Promotion Agency) , Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, the NAC ( National Arts Council), DMCs ( Destination Management Companies) and STB ( Seychelles Tourism Board). Their involvement could be in terms of both financial and technical assistance.

Furthermore, the technical assistance of the National Heritage Research and Protection Section and the different cultural institutions within the Department of Culture will be necessary to ensure the development of the ICH community projects.

**Delivery of projects outputs:** After the second workshop, the participants has manage to contribute towards the finalisation of the heritage bill, which upon completion will be a powerful tool that will help the community to protect their cultural heritage assest against illegal trafficking.

**Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement:** People within the community is now more aware on the 2003 convention and many new cultural projects are coming up. People are now more concern in regards to their cultural heritage..

### 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)*

Attach will be some photographs of the second workshop and report from Mrs. Deirdre Prins Solani.

### Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Julienne Barra

Title: Director General

Date: 16/4/2018

*Enna*

Signature:

