



Memory of the World

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**Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNESCO
Recommendation on Documentary Heritage in Western and Central Asia**

Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Documentary Heritage in Western and Central Asia¹

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Section 1: Identification of documentary heritage			
What are the main challenges in your country and region for identifying documentary heritage?	What actions should different stakeholders take to address those challenges?	How can regional cooperation through UNESCO, MOWCAP or other mechanisms help to address those challenges?	What actions should be taken at the regional level in 2018-2019?
National registers of documentary heritage not yet developed in many member states	<p>To establish the National Memory of the World Committees and Registers</p> <p>To nominate significant documentary heritage to the MoW International and Regional Registers</p>	By providing training/guidance in establishing national registers	<p>Support for the formation of National MoW Committees and Registers</p> <p>Regional training on developing nominations to the MoW Registers</p> <p>Participation in the regional MOWCAP meeting</p>

¹Developed by the delegates from seven Member States (Iran, Azerbaijan, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan) participating at the Regional Seminar on Strengthening Cooperation for the Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage, 29-30 August 2017, Tehran, IR of Iran

Limited collaboration between national memory institutions to identify documentary heritage	<p>Establishing National Memory of the World Committees that include members from memory institutions, civil society, governments, individual experts and university</p> <p>Periodic meetings between institutions</p> <p>Joint programmes between different agencies</p> <p>Sharing of facilities (infrastructure e.g. archival repositories)</p>	By connecting memory institutions across the countries	Publication on different models of National MoW Committees in the region
Documentary heritage often located outside of the countries	Encouraging and funding bilateral or multilateral engagement for access to copies, and in certain cases repatriation	By engaging in joint nominations to MoW Registers and raising awareness	<p>Regional training on joint nominations</p> <p>Clarification on the mechanism for joint nominations</p> <p>Expert meeting for the identification of documentary heritage for joint nominations</p>
Lack of comprehensive lists/catalogues to access to copies of documentary heritage in the region	Encouraging institutions to develop and share catalogues	Developing standardized protocols for sharing catalogues	Cataloguing conference at the regional level (India and Iran offered to host)

Section 2: Preservation of documentary heritage

What are the main challenges in your country and region for preserving documentary heritage?	What actions should different stakeholders take to address those challenges?	How can regional cooperation help to address those challenges?	What actions should be taken at the regional level in 2018-2019?
Lack of financial resources	<p>Raising awareness on the importance of preservation</p> <p>Public-private</p>	Practical assistance can be offered by countries that are in a position to do so	Identification of countries in need of assistance and those who are in a position to assist

	partnerships and fund-raising		
Existence of various types of documentary heritage materials (e.g metals, wood, paper, leaves etc.) which require specific methods of preservation	Supporting preservation trainings and networking of experts	Taking benefits from the expertise of some countries to support preservation training	Preservation trainings provided by Iran/India
Shortage of qualified human resources for preservation due to the turnover of experts in memory institutions and National MoW Committees	Supporting appropriate knowledge transfer Integrating the knowledge transfer and the preservation of institutional memory into the human resources policy of the institutions	N/A	N/A
Lack of facilities to undertake preservation actions	To raise funding To share the UNESCO Recommendation to the governments and heads of institutions	Assistance can be offered by countries that are in a position to do so	Identification of countries in need of assistance and those who are in a position to assist
Lack of guidelines for digital preservation	Developing policy on the preservation of digital heritage	Sharing guidelines and regional experiences/good practices in digital preservation	Sharing the guidelines for digital preservation (PERSIST Guidelines) Supporting training on digital preservation

Section 3: Access to documentary heritage

What are the main challenges in your country and region for accessing to documentary heritage?	What actions should different stakeholders take to address those challenges?	How can regional cooperation help to address those challenges?	What actions should be taken at the regional level in 2018-2019?
Difficulty to access documentary heritage owned by private individuals/institutions or located outside the country	Providing incentives, raising awareness, supporting community archiving Involving private individuals/institutions as members of National	Sharing regional good practices	

	MoW Committees Encouraging collaboration amongst the institutions across the country and creating incentive for sharing documentary heritage		
Limitation of access to documentary heritage particularly state/government records	Governments can consider creating legislation and update relevant regulations in line with international standards on access to public information Advocating and supporting for the participation of memory institutions and civil society in developing or updating legislation/policies	Sharing international standards on access to information laws and related regional policies and good practices	
Difficulty to access to documentary heritage because of the language barriers	Encouraging translation of documentary heritage, descriptions and metadata into other languages Development of multilingual portal website		

Section 4: Policy measures for the preservation of and access to documentary heritage

What are the main challenges in your country and region relating to policies for the preservation and access to documentary heritage?	What actions should different stakeholders take to address those challenges?	How can regional cooperation help to address those challenges?	What actions should be taken at the regional level in 2018-2019?
Documentary heritage often not considered as an asset and subsequently not included as a priority in	Advocating for the definition of documentary heritage as a national asset (good governance,	Regional advocacy initiatives	Supporting the translation of the UNESCO Recommendation on documentary heritage in to local languages

national develop agendas	tourism, culture and history, etc)		Recalling the principles containing the universal declaration on archives (2011) to recognize the role of archives as custodians of memory
Awareness among the public on the need for the preservation of and access to documentary heritage is low	Awareness-raising through educational and outreach programmes, public events in schools, museums, libraries, etc.	Sharing of materials produced (e.g. exhibition, etc) Regional awareness raising initiatives	MoW Exhibition on the documentary heritage from the region Regional and national celebration of the International Day of Universal Access to Information on 28 September Regional and national celebration of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October