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**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Thirteenth session  
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**The use of International Assistance and the global capacity-building programme in relation  
to elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**

**Summary**

Following the request by the Committee at its twelfth session ([Decision 12.COM 21](#)), this document provides an overview of the current use of the International Assistance mechanism and the global capacity-building programme in relation to elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

1. At its twelfth session in December 2017, the Committee reiterated the importance of safeguarding elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (hereinafter, the 'Urgent Safeguarding List') and discussed the potential interrelations between these elements and the operational mechanisms and programmes of the 2003 Convention. Consequently, the Committee invited the Secretariat to prepare a report on the use of International Assistance and the global capacity-building programme of the 2003 Convention in relation to elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List, as well as to explore further possibilities for utilizing them to safeguard elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List ([Decision 12.COM 21](#)).
2. There are currently fifty-two elements from twenty-eight States inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, of which one is a multinational element. This document aims to give an overview of the overall status of support provided for safeguarding these elements through the operational mechanism and programmes of the 2003 Convention, namely International Assistance and the global capacity-building programme. The Committee may examine the basic information collected and provided in this report, take stock of the current situation and reflect on the need to consider other support measures that could enhance the safeguarding of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List.

### **International Assistance and elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List**

3. As one of the international cooperation mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, International Assistance provides distinct channels of support in relation to elements for possible inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List as well as those already inscribed on the List. One such channel grants assistance prior to the inscription of elements, while another corresponds to assistance with safeguarding following inscription. However, this support is provided neither automatically nor in a systematic manner to States. In both cases, the request needs to be made by the State concerned and follows the procedures established in the Operational Directives of the 2003 Convention for the approval of International Assistance requests; this mechanism is financed by a specific budget line under the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter, the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund').
4. As presented in the following table, nine elements (out of fifty-two) have benefitted from direct financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, which corresponds to 17.3 per cent of the total number of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Most recently, two International Assistance requests from Mongolia associated with elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List were approved by the third Bureau of the thirteenth session of the Committee, which took place on 2 October 2018 (see document [ITH/18/13.COM 3.BUR/Decisions](#)).

International Assistance project	Beneficiary	Amount granted (US\$)	Implementation period	Report for International Assistance	Element inscribed on the USL
Supporting natural and cultural sustainability through the revitalization and transmission of the traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites in Mongolia (No. 01443)	Mongolia	98,500	Contract under preparation	-	<a href="#">Mongolian traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites</a> inscribed in 2017

Transmitting and stabilizing the folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers – circular breathing – through the old repertoire to the new generations (No. 01445)	Mongolia	99,946	Contract under preparation	-	<a href="#">Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performances - circular breathing</a> inscribed in 2011
Chapei Dang Veng (No. 01306)	Cambodia	238,970	03/11/2017 – 03/11/2020	Progress report due in November 2018 <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Chapei Dang Veng</a> , inscribed in 2016
Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda (No. 01210)	Uganda	232,120	23/02/2018 – 10/02/2020	Progress report due in December 2018 <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Empaako tradition of the Batooro, Banyoro, Batuku, Batagwenda and Banyabindi of western Uganda</a> , inscribed in 2013
Promotion of earthen ware pottery-making skills in Kgatleng district (No. 01153)	Botswana	68,261	17/02/2017 – 30/06/2018	<a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Earthenware pottery-making skills in Botswana's Kgatleng District</a> , inscribed in 2012
Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda (No. 00979)	Uganda	24,990	01/09/2015 – 31/08/2017	<a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of the Busoga Kingdom in Uganda</a> , inscribed in 2012
Safeguarding and revitalizing the Mongolian traditional epic (No. 00549)	Mongolia	89,700	30/06/2013 – 30/06/2016	<a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Mongol Tuuli, Mongolian epic</a> , inscribed in 2009
Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda (No. 00326)	Kenya	126,580	01/07/2011 – 19/12/2014	<a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda</a> , inscribed in 2009
Implementation of proposed safeguarding measures for the Sanké mon, collective fishing rite of the Sanké (No. 00333)	Mali	24,000	08/02/2010 – 30/06/2011	<a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Sanké mon, collective fishing rite of the Sanké</a> , inscribed in 2009

5. As can be observed in the table, the use of assistance following inscription has been limited to two electoral groups: Group IV, Asia and the Pacific; and Group V(a), Africa. Among the nine projects granted International Assistance, five have been completed and four are ongoing. The projects have been effectively implementing the following activities related to safeguarding:

awareness raising; documentation and inventorying; the preparation of safeguarding plans; the development of educational materials; and the production of communication and promotional materials.

6. The ongoing project 'Chapei Dang Veng' in Cambodia is a special case, as International Assistance was requested at the same time as for the inscription of the element on the Urgent Safeguarding List. This was the first example in 2016 of the newly integrated mechanism using Form ICH-01bis, which was created for the purpose of a possible combined nomination for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List together with a request for International Assistance, in order to support the implementation of the proposed safeguarding plan.
7. The International Assistance mechanism also provides financial assistance for preparing nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List through 'preparatory assistance', as described in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Operational Directives. States Parties may request assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for developing nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List by submitting their request before 31 March every year for potential submission of the nomination by 31 March of the following year or the year after. No fixed amounts are determined for such assistance, but the range is usually from US\$5,000 to US\$10,000. Possible activities that can be funded through preparatory financial assistance include: the organization of community consultations; the preparation of the audio-visual materials required for the file; the provision of translation services; and expert assistance.
8. The following table shows that twelve out of a total of twenty-one preparatory assistance requests submitted between 2008 and June 2018, that is, around 57 per cent of the requests, were approved by the Bureau of the Committee and led to a successful inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Of the twelve requests, two elements (in Kenya and Mongolia) were further granted International Assistance following inscription.

Preparatory assistance	Beneficiary	Amount granted (US\$)	Implementation period	Received International Assistance following inscription	Element inscribed on the USL
Taskiwine, Amazigh dance and songs of the western High Atlas (No. 01052)	Morocco	14,100	15/12/2014 – 30/04/2016	-	<a href="#">Taskiwine, martial dance of the western High Atlas</a> , inscribed in 2017
Madi bow lyre music (No. 00890)	Uganda	10,000	23/12/2013 – 31/03/2015	-	<a href="#">Ma'di bowl lyre music and dance</a> , inscribed in 2016
The male-child cleansing ceremony of the Lango people of North Central Uganda (Dwoko Atin Awobi lot) (No. 00657)	Uganda	8,570	20/03/2012 – 31/03/2013	-	<a href="#">Male-child cleansing ceremony of the Lango of central northern Uganda</a> , inscribed in 2014
Moorish epic T'Heydinn (No. 00487)	Mauritania	9,800	15/12/2009 – 30/04/2010	-	<a href="#">Moorish epic T'heydinn</a> , inscribed in 2011
Ceremonial de la Paach (No. 00485)	Guatemala	8,000	15/12/2009 – 30/04/2010	-	<a href="#">Nan Pa'ch ceremony</a> , inscribed in 2013
Secret society of Korèdugaw, the rite of wisdom, in Mali (No. 00484)	Mali	8,500	15/12/2009 – 30/04/2010	-	<a href="#">Secret society of the Kòrèdugaw, the rite of wisdom in Mali</a> , inscribed in 2011

Xoan singing of Phú Thọ Province (No. 00483)	Viet Nam	6,000	15/12/2009 – 30/04/2010	-	<a href="#">Xoan singing of Phú Thọ province, Viet Nam</a> , inscribed in 2011 and transferred to the Representative List in 2017
Ca Tru singing of the Viet people (No. 00286)	Viet Nam	6,000	19/12/2008 – 30/04/2009	-	<a href="#">Ca trù singing</a> , inscribed in 2009
Traditions and practices associated to the Kayas (No. 00285)	Kenya	6,000	19/12/2008 – 30/04/2009	YES <a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda</a> , inscribed in 2009
Mongolian Traditional Heroic Epic (No. 00261)	Mongolia	6,000	19/12/2008 – 30/04/2009	YES <a href="#">Final report</a> <a href="#">Dedicated webpage</a>	<a href="#">Mongol Tuuli, Mongolian epic</a> , inscribed in 2009
Mongolian folk dance (No. 00260)	Mongolia	6,500	19/12/2008 – 30/04/2009	-	<a href="#">Mongol Biyelgee, Mongolian traditional folk dance</a> , inscribed in 2009
Suiti Cultural Space (No. 00178)	Latvia	6,000	19/12/2008 – 30/04/2009	-	<a href="#">Suiti cultural space</a> , inscribed in 2009

9. Out of the fifty-two elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, 23 per cent of them used the preparatory assistance mechanism. It demonstrates a wider geographical outreach in comparison to assistance following inscription, extending its impact to two additional electoral groups: Group II, Eastern European States, and Group V(b), Arab States, along with Groups IV and V(a). Based on these data, preparatory assistance appears to be more commonly and widely utilized than financial assistance provided after the elements are inscribed.

#### **Global capacity-building programme and elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List**

10. As for the contribution of the global capacity-building programme to the safeguarding of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, the link is not as clear and straightforward as can be witnessed with the International Assistance mechanism. The global capacity-building programme was developed to support States in implementing the Convention at the national and community level and in strengthening institutional and professional environments for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Since the operationalization of the programme in 2011, countries have been benefitting from projects based on the capacity-building programme with the support of extrabudgetary resources channeled either through Funds-in-Trust Agreements or through earmarked contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.
11. The programme provides a wide range of advisory services and training materials covering different thematic and action areas, developed to accompany capacity-building activities in different country contexts. Even though there is currently no specific mechanism within the programme that can provide direct support to the elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, it is observed that a certain number of training materials contribute substantially to raising capacities to safeguard elements. These include, namely: training material on community-based inventorying; the development of safeguarding plans; and preparing for nominations. In this respect, out of the twenty-eight States Parties that have

elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, fifteen have benefitted from a total number of forty-three workshops, which were organized by UNESCO in line with its global capacity-building programme to reinforce national safeguarding capacities.

12. The workshops primarily utilized the [training material](#) of the capacity-building programme, with the engagement of UNESCO-trained facilitators from the [global network of facilitators](#). They covered a wide range of thematic areas, from the 'implementation of the Convention at the national level' (48.9 per cent), to 'community-based inventorying' (30 per cent), 'developing safeguarding plans' (9.3 per cent) and 'preparing nominations' (4.65 per cent). Of these workshops, 62.7 per cent took place after the inscription of the elements, while 37.3 per cent were held prior to inscription.
13. In fact, with the current monitoring system of the capacity-building programme, it is not possible to systematically track or measure the explicit link or contribution of the workshops to the inscribed elements. Nonetheless, the capacity-building programme undoubtedly has a positive impact on the safeguarding of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, with the support of the workshop material and the provision of experts from the facilitators' network.

## Reflections

14. In light of the aforementioned observations and information drawn to show the state of support provided for inscribed elements, it appears that the two programmes – International Assistance and the global capacity-building programme – serve a positive role as catalysts for safeguarding actions. They both facilitate the implementation of safeguarding activities and projects and enable States to build the necessary capacities as well as improve the required conditions for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in general and, to a considerable extent, elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List.
15. As a key monitoring tool, the reports on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List inform the Committee of the ongoing situation of elements, the effectiveness of the safeguarding measures States have implemented, and the challenges they have encountered. The reports are submitted by States on a four-year cycle after the inscription of the elements. However, the current reporting Form ICH-11 does not explicitly request information on possible support provided to the safeguarding of the element from either the International Assistance mechanism or the global capacity-building programme.
16. It is clear that the combined mechanism of simultaneously requesting International Assistance when submitting a nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List is yet to be fully utilized, as there has been only one case so far. If States wish to receive immediate and direct support to safeguard elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, the active use of this combined mechanism, as well as the International Assistance mechanism, should be further encouraged. In this respect, the creation of a dedicated team working on the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism ([Resolution 7.GA 8](#)) will also provide a greater level of support to States, with improved access to the mechanism and enhanced assistance in the implementation and monitoring of safeguarding plans for elements on the Urgent Safeguarding List.