**Overview and rationale**

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| **Indicator** | **21. Extent to which engagement for safeguarding ICH is enhanced among stakeholders** |
| **Assessment factors** | This indicator is assessed on the basis of three country-level factors monitored and reported by each State Party: |
| * 1. Communities, groups and individuals participate, on an inclusive basis and to the widest possible extent, in the safeguarding of ICH in general and of specific elements of ICH, whether or not inscribed.
 | Article 15OD 1, OD 2, OD 7, OD 79,OD 101(b), OD 171(a)EP 1, EP 2, EP 9 |
| * 1. NGOs and other civil society actors participate in the safeguarding of ICH in general, and of specific elements of ICH, whether or not inscribed.
 | OD 90,OD 108,OD 157(e), OD 158(b), OD 162(d), OD 163(b) |
| * 1. Private sector entities participate in the safeguarding of ICH, and of specific elements of ICH, whether or not inscribed, respecting the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding ICH.
 | OD 187 |
| **Relation with SDGs and other indicators** | **Sustainable Development Goals:** The present indicator, by advocating wide participation in ICH safeguarding by a broad range of actors, supports SDG Target 16.7 ‘ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels’, as well as SDG Target 17.17, ‘encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships…’. It also responds to SDG Target 11.4, which concerns protecting and safeguarding the world’s cultural and natural heritage.**Relation to other indicators:** Given its concern with the wide and inclusive participation by communities, groups and individuals in safeguarding ICH, the present indicator complements several indicators concerned with specific safeguarding measures: Indicator 4 (education), Indicator 8 (inventorying), Indicator 11 (cultural policy) and Indicator 17 (raising awareness). Its spirit of coordination among various actors involved in safeguarding – including communities, groups and individuals, non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, as well as private sector entities – is complemented by Indicator 25. |
| **Rationale for action** | Article 15 encourages each State to ‘ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals’ in the safeguarding and management of their ICH. This general principle has been integrated throughout the Operational Directives and Ethical Principles. This does not simply imply a two-way partnership between the State and such communities; rather, the Operational Directives have also developed an important role in safeguarding for non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as well as the private sector. Effectively involving this broad range of actors is essential to achieving the best safeguarding results, whether for ICH in general or for specific elements of ICH. |
| **Key terms** | * Stakeholders
* Communities, groups or, in some cases, individuals
* Participation or involvement
* Inclusive/inclusively
* Elements of ICH
* Inscribed (whether or not inscribed)
* Non-governmental organizations
* Civil society
* Actors
* Private sector
* Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
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**Specific guidance on monitoring and periodic reporting**

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| **Benefits of monitoring** | Given the importance of Article 15, monitoring can help a State to assess whether its safeguarding efforts are effectively undertaken with the widest possible participation of communities, groups and individuals. Monitoring of civil society and private sector participation in ICH safeguarding can help identify opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of State and community efforts, and locally-appropriate ways of so doing. At the global level, monitoring can share examples of good practices and offer lessons to States that have not yet fully engaged the broad range of ICH stakeholders in shared safeguarding efforts. |
| **Data sources and collection** | The Ministry of Culture or similar agencies in charge of safeguarding activities at national and local levels may be an important source of information regarding the broad participation of various stakeholders. If the State has an inclusive consultative body or coordination mechanism, it may include representatives of the various sectors whose participation in safeguarding is involved in this indicator. Such ministries and consultative bodies or mechanisms can provide ongoing information about safeguarding efforts, whether for ICH in general or for specific elements, and can serve as a forum for diverse actors to exchange experiences and develop effective partnerships. If the State operates one or more funding schemes to support safeguarding activities, those mechanisms would bring to light examples of engagement and participation by a wide range of stakeholders.**Possible data sources*** Budgets, work plans and activity reports of the Ministry of Culture and/or other funding agencies supporting ICH safeguarding
* Websites and other information sources on community associations and non-governmental organizations active in ICH safeguarding
* Nomination files for elements proposed for inclusion in a country-level list or register, if a safeguarding plan is required as part of such files
* Nomination files for elements proposed for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List
* Periodic reporting to the State concerning elements inscribed on a national list or on either of the UNESCO lists
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