



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

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INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State Party: Lesotho

Project title:	Inventoring of intangible cultural heritage elements in Thaba-Bosiu, Lesotho (LSO-01118)
Time frame:	Starting date: 03/03/2017 Completion date: 28/04/2017
Budget:	Total: US\$26,868.50 <i>Including:</i> Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$24,998 State Party contributions: US\$1,870.50 Other contributions: US\$---
Implementing agency:	Department of Culture in the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
Implementing partners:	National Commission for UNESCO, National Coordinator, Thaba-Bosiu Community (fieldworkers and interviewees, Director of Culture and his support staff like the focal point)
Contact person:	Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms Family name: Ntene Given name: Maneo Institution/position: Director of Culture Address: Post Office Building Maseru, P.O. Box 52, Kingsway Road Telephone number: 00266 223214229 E-mail address: ntenem@yahoo.com

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

According to UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage refers to practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith; that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage recognizes the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee of sustainable development in several ways. Firstly, ICH such as singing and dancing are used as medium of oral communication. Secondly, ICH is a source of national or society identity and prestige. Thirdly, ICH such as proverbs provides effective means of passing information on sensitive matters. Fourthly, ICH such as taboos provides the moral code of conduct i.e. the laws that govern the behaviour of the society. Last but not least, ICH such as rituals provide medium for formal instructions on certain aspects of a particular society. In light of this, there is need to document this heritage for future generations because of the role it plays.

As part of implementing the 2003 UNESCO Convention, this project intends to inventory ICH elements in 9 selected communities of Ha Khoabane, Masekoeng, Ha Jobo, Lihaseg, Ha Thiba-Khoali, Liolong, Mahaheng, Ha Ntsane and Ntlo-Kholo within Thaba-Bosiu. In 2012 a request was sent to the Department of Culture by the elders from the 9 villages under the Principal Chief for Thaba-Bosiu Khoabane Theko to document their ICH. This followed the similar exercise that was conducted in Mekhoaneng and Botha-Buthe during the pilot project on Community-based inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage at Grassroots in 2010.

This project has therefore trained fifteen community members from 9 villages as researchers and fieldworkers in documenting methodologies promoted by UNESCO and infusing participatory methods when collecting the ICH elements. As much as possible gender representation was taken into consideration to ensure that none of the genders are compromised when doing the project. The elements collected updated the Departmental database of the compiled i-inventory for Thaba-Bosiu. The hard copies will be produced and distributed to libraries, relevant ministries and departments, village heads, surrounding schools and research institutions.

The Department of Culture established the first inventory of ICH in 2010 following the exercise conducted in Mekhoaneng and Bothabuthe Districts. In 2012 inventorying of ICH was carried out in Metolong with support from the World Bank. Therefore, this project will enable the Department to identify ICH elements which were not inventoried in areas where the process was previously done. Inventorying will assist the Department of Culture to identify ICH elements which need urgent safeguarding and those that are potentially eligible and significant for possible nomination under the Representative List (RL).

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 overall objectives of this project are as follows. Firstly to contribute to the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural heritage in Lesotho. Secondly, to raise awareness among stakeholders i.e. Chiefs, custodians, practitioners, NGOs, Civil society, cultural

Associations, and relevant Government ministries and departments about intangible cultural heritage, measures and mechanisms for safeguarding Intangible Cultural heritage, the 2003

Convention and the importance of ICH in society. Thirdly, to conduct a capacity building workshop for fieldworkers and in order to achieve this objective 15 youths from 9 communities/villages were trained as researchers/fieldworkers on the UNESCO approved methodology of documenting ICH. They contributed in carrying out inventorying of ICH elements in 9 villages around Thaba-Bosiu. The inventorying was done over a period of 5 months by the trained researchers who will document the ICH elements in each village, making a total of 24 elements for the entire project. The inventorying of ICH elements from Thaba-Bosiu was added to the national ICH inventory. The inventorying exercise has helped to improve the Department's efficiency in project management and accountability. The progress reports and financial reports were produced and project monitoring and evaluation was done to ensure that the project succeeded.

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

Achievements

Capacity Building Workshop of community based inventory on grassroots level at Thaba-Bosiu village took place. The work was completed in five months as anticipated and planned by the Department of Culture.

The training workshop was facilitated by the regional coordinator and national coordinator on the identified fifteen fieldworkers and staff from the Department of Culture.

Inventorying took place in the nine villages of Thaba-Bosiu for two months (March to April 2017). The villages are Ha Khoabane, Masekoeng, Ha Jobo, Lhaseng, Ha Thiba-Khoali, Liolong, Mahaheng, Ha Ntsane and Ntlo-Kholo.

The reports were submitted and they were as follows: Training Workshop on Capacity Building including participants and facilitators, Progress Report of the fieldwork and the Final Report on inventorying of ICH elements in Thaba-Bosiu.

The National Coordinator and Focal Point monitored and supported the work done by fieldworkers on the ground.

The country's database was updated.

Outstanding issues

Consequently photographic exhibition and DVD of the inventorying material was not done due to limited funds since the rand value has deteriorated as opposed to a dollar and lack of time as the Department had to meet the UNESCO deadline.

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

When the proposal was drafted the following members of the community were involved: local chiefs and local councillors. Upon approval of the proposal by UNESCO, awareness campaign was held in Thaba-Bosiu discussing technicalities and logistics concerning the whole project.

The identification of fieldworkers was done in consultation with the chiefs, local councillors of Thaba-Bosiu and members of the community. A public gathering was held where officials from the Department of Culture in the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) and National Coordinator gave a general overview about the objective of the meeting: the significance of inventorying the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and the 2003 UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding ICH.

There were activities on the official closure of the training workshop on the 8th March, 2017.

The official closure of the workshop was done by the Principal Secretary of MTEC where he talked about the importance of Lesotho as the member state that has ratified the Convention as it would not be possible to hold such gatherings without funds from UNESCO and its partners. He thanked the Principal Chief of Thaba-Bosiu, Morena Khoabane Theko, and his community for allowing the Ministry to host its workshop in their premises.

On behalf of the Principal Chief of Thaba-Bosiu, the area chief thanked the project funders and MTEC in ensuring that Thaba-Bosiu as an important national heritage site has been ear marked for funding to carry out the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention. He therefore, promised to cooperate with the Ministry and fieldworkers to ensure the success of the project.

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 ratifying the 2003 UNESCO Convention in 2005 the Department of Culture continues to budget for ICH activities annually for sustainable purposes and to raise awareness within other stakeholders by supporting them technically and financially to promote ICH.

Moreover, the Department of Culture through its Ministry has managed to raise awareness to other ministries that before large developments are made ICH inventorying should be done hence why in 2013 Metolong Authority provided funding for ICH inventorying before the construction of Metolong dam.

The National University of Lesotho through the Department of Historical Studies offers a Programme on heritage and cultural studies.

The inventorying of ICH by communities through the Department of Culture has been replicated in villages of Matukeng and Thaba-Bosiu after a pilot exercise in Botha-Bothe and Menkhoaneng. This has been done through the funding that the Department of Culture has secured from Flanders through UNESCO.

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

ICH is an important component concerning peoples' lives and it is crucial to raise awareness to people about their living heritage as initially people concentrated more on the significance of tangible heritage like sites and monuments. ICH was never given a priority by then. Therefore, the 2003 Convention does complement the 1972 Convention.

Communities are aware that ICH is a living heritage and it is only they who can guarantee its transmission. No scholar or researcher has a right to tell communities how they should practice their ICH as they are the sole custodians and bearers of their own living heritage.

Delivery of project outputs needs to be done in time. It is important to meet deadlines for accountability and efficiency purposes.

Implementation and project management of the fieldwork give communities opportunity to interact and engage with the ICH experts. Therefore, inventorying at the end of the day becomes a responsibility for all the relevant stakeholders including members of the community.

This is an ongoing process that the Department is engaged in. Please refer to the above section on sustainability and exit.

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)*

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Tumelo Monyane

Title: National Coordinator

Date: 04/02/2018

Signature: <signed>