



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

## International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

### INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

#### FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Seychelles

Project title:	Capacity building workshop for the safeguarding of ICH of Seychelles
Time frame:	Starting date: 01/6/2017      Completion date: 30/02/2019
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$95000</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$90000  State Party contribution: US\$5000  Other contributions: US\$None</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	National Heritage Research & Protection Section
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, Providence, Mahe</p> <p>Telephone number: 248 4321333/2724637</p> <p>E-mail address: barrajulienne@yahoo.co.uk</p>
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	
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 was 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 was 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 the different elements of our ICH including those such as craftsmanship that can be sources of sustainable economic activities. 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 with 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, education and dissemination. We need to ensure as a nation that we will 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 are 25 electoral districts in Seychelles and 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 to prepare 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. These projects under the UNESCO Funds ensure that we will be up to date on best practises regarding safeguarding measures so that we will know exactly what is needed in terms of legal protection for the safeguarding of our ICH and it also provides an opportunity to gain practical experiences for Seychelles to implement safeguarding activities in the sense of the convention.

### **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 four projects contributed to the revitalization of the cultural heritage development in Seychelles , by creating an environment in which our cultural heritage can be more appreciated, practiced and further transmitted. The four projects achieved the following results;

#### **Component 1: Workshop on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention**

This activity was the first part within the project. The aim of the this activity was to Strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders and community representatives on the implementation of the 2003 convention with specific focus on the crucial links between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Component 2: Production of a strategic document on safeguarding Seychellois ICH as a key contribution to the draft National Heritage Bill.

To carry out the necessary consultations and perform a comprehensive analysis of (i) institutional and legislative framework (ii) to draft a national Heritage Bill.To involve all stakeholders including the communities in the drafting of the legislative and institutional frameworks leading to more effective implementation of the convention. During the second activities we agreed that Intra and Inter-sectoral forum through which the ICH strategy can be formulated and implemented. It was also noted that continuous assessment of gaps and strategies to address these issues with respect to safeguarding ICH

Safeguarding plans and mechanisms designed at local levels should be in place.

Component 3: Workshop on community-based inventorying with a focus on participatory video/photography and pilot inventorying exercises in the three main islands.

Three pilot inventory projects lasting around one month using participatory video and involving approximately 25 individuals as least half of whom participated in the theoretical workshop was carried out following the workshop in the three different islands. The aim of this workshop was to provide fundamental principles and practical information on community-based inventorying, using UNESCO's capacity-building material as a guide. .

The participant received training on how to conduct inventories. A procedure has started for establishing a sustainable system at the national level while doing the inventories in regards to the safeguarding of our ich.

Component 4: Organisation of a three days workshop and advisory services on how to elaborate- nomination files to the lists of the 2003 convention.

The participant manage to learn how to prepare a nomination file for ich. The facilitator and representatives from the Department of Culture will continue to work on the project in collaboration with the concerned communities to unsure that the tinge dance is officially listed on the list of ICH.

### 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: Four workshops were conducted under the UNESCO's -ICH project. The project aims were to strengthen the institutional and human capacities in Seychelles to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory. In parallel, the project also were to reinforce legal frameworks for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, in particular through its inclusion in the National Heritage Bill which is currently being developed under the leadership of the agency responsible for the implementation of the present project, namely the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Youth, sports and Culture. Through all planned activities, the aim of the projects were to raise awareness among policy-makers and communities from Seychelles' three main islands, Mahe, Praslin and La Digue, on their respective roles in the safeguarding efforts at the national level and on the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for sustainable development, particularly for adapting to climate change. Planned activities include training on the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level, community-based inventorying through participatory video and preparation of nominations to the Convention's list as well as policy advisory services. Over a period of 14 months, the Department of Culture has worked closely with the administrations of the 25 districts of the country to implement these activities, with the assistance of national and international experts in the field of cultural heritage.

#### • **First Workshop:** Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention

As per our contract agreement, National Heritage Research & Protection Section organised its first workshop on the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 convention of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage on Tuesday 25th July to Thursday 27th July 2017. The workshop was conducted by two UNESCO accredited ICH experts Mr Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi and Mrs. Deirdre Prins-Solani from Cape Town, South Africa.

The first workshop was very important. The key issues that emerge were the need to engage the community in the conservation of our intangible cultural heritage. How to implement the 2003 convention was well received by the workshop participants, especially

how to implement it at the national level. They also learn that better safeguarding of ICH nationally contribute to the well-being of communities, respect and understanding between communities, cultural diversity and sustainable development.

To conclude all parties agree that there is a need to raise awareness about the values of ICH. We need to create a National ICH committee and all of us should be able to help implement specific measures to safeguard our ICH.

- **Second Workshop:** Production of a strategic document on safeguarding Seychellois ICH as a key contribution to the draft National Heritage Bill

The second workshop was organised by the National Heritage Research & Protection Section, from the Department of Culture, within the Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture in collaboration with UNESCO-ICH, on Tuesday 27th February to Thursday 1st March 2018. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Dierdre Prins- Solani from Cape Town, South Africa.

This workshop took place over three days on the island of Mahe. Participants included; artists, cultural practitioners, cultural entrepreneurs, policy makers from cultural and natural heritage institutions, police service and cultural institutions.

While the organisers made every effort to ensure representation at the workshop, there were a few gaps which need to be addressed in the future. These include; youth (not representatives or institutional heads, but youth themselves), disabled, greater representation of practitioners from the crafts, indigenous knowledge, and so on. Developing capacity at community level would help to strengthen the ministry's capacity to implement the convention.

The workshop addressed a range of topics. These were;

- The UNESCO 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and policy making

- Global context of policy and ICH

- Associated issues such as; sustainable development, social cohesion, community participation and safeguarding

- Review of the Heritage Bill in the context of the above

- The three day workshop was very important and significant. The key issues that emerge were the need to engage the community in the conservation of our intangible cultural heritage. The Community participation in the policy process was well received by the workshop participants, especially the drafting of the heritage bill and its implementation.

- They also learn that better safeguarding of ICH nationally contribute to the well-being of communities, respect and understanding between communities, cultural diversity and sustainable development

- **Third Workshop:** Workshop on community-based inventorying with a focus on participatory video/photography and pilot inventorying exercises in the three main islands

- The third workshop was organised by the National Heritage Research & Protection Section, from the Department of Culture, in collaboration with UNESCO-ICH, on Tuesday 19th February to Thursday 21st February 2019. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi.

The workshop brought together participants from various fields of specialization. These included: cultural experts, researchers, officials from various government departments and agencies, civil society organizations, representatives from the different ethnic communities, among others.

The aim of this workshop was to provide fundamental principles and practical information on community-based inventorying, using UNESCO's capacity-building material as a guide. The

specific objectives were:

1. To understanding the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of ICH,
2. To enhance the capacities of Seychelles in safeguarding ICH,
3. To equip participants with skills on inventorying of ICH,

The delivery mode of the workshop included: structured presentations, group and individual assignments, practical sessions and discussions, among others. For the entire training, the focus was to convey the essential features of inventorying under the 2003 Convention, developing inventory framework, and technical skills in identifying and documenting ICH elements.

There is no doubt that participants acquired new knowledge and skills from this training workshop. Firstly, participants are now able to understand what Intangible Cultural Heritage is, the seven Conventions in the Domain of Culture, the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICH Domains, safeguarding measures and the role of States Parties in implementing the Convention, among others. Secondly, participants acquired skills on the community-based inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage, including how to plan for field work, use of equipment, developing data collecting instruments, data collection in the field, data processing and archiving, and the need for free, prior, informed consent before conducting inventories. Above all, participants were made aware of the existence of ICH Fund and the need for Seychelles to take advantage of this Fund to inventory more elements of ICH.

• **Fourth Workshop:** Workshop and advisory services on nomination files to the lists of the 2003 Convention

The Fourth workshop was organised by the National Heritage Research & Protection Section, from the Department of Culture, in collaboration with UNESCO-ICH, on Tuesday 26th february to Thursday 28st February 2019. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi.

This training workshop was on “Preparation of Nomination Files to the Convention’s Lists”. The workshop brought together participants from various stakeholder institutions. These included: cultural experts, researchers, Government agencies and civil society organizations, among others.

1. The Objectives were to provide an overview of the Convention and its main concepts;
2. To explain the subject of nomination of ICH on UNESCO’s Lists, emphasizing on nominations to the Representative List (RL), Urgent Safeguarding List (USL) and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices
3. To explain how the nomination process works and how nomination files are examined against the set criteria for inscription.

The workshop structure as proposed in the materials was good. Inclusion of case studies in the capacity building materials was also a good idea as it helped participants to understand the obvious mistakes that people usually make when preparing nomination files. The facilitator also found the documents on Aid Memoirs for nomination files helpful as it provided insights on lessons learnt from the evaluation of nomination files submitted by different Member States.

Participants who attended the just ended workshop on preparation of nomination files can contribute to the implementation of the Convention in many ways. Firstly, most of the participants from the Department of Culture were researchers in oral traditions and indigenous knowledge systems. They have also been involved in implementing the 2003 Convention. The same personnel were involved in the preparation of the first even nomination file, “Moutya dance of Seychellois”, for possible inscription on the RL of ICH of Humanity despite the fact that none of them had received prior training on the preparation of

nomination files. Therefore, this training will bring the much needed confidence when handling similar assignments in future.

The main issue that imaged during the training was to do with multi-national nominations. Some participants felt that if a Member State submits nomination file of an ICH element that is believed to have originated from another country; that element should not be inscribed on the UNESCO Lists unless there is a permission from the perceived country of origin. The facilitator was emphatic that the Convention does not provide for that. While the Convention encourages Member States to work in collaboration on shared ICH elements, any Member State is free to nominate if the other Member State(s) are not ready to do so and they don't need permission from any Member State(s). However, if the other Member State(s) so wish, they can join the nomination at any time in future once the element has been inscribed.

### **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. Two representatives from each of Island were involved in the training itself and the subsequent efforts to safeguard ICH at the community level. It is expected that these 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 started 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 was undertake during the third workshop which took place in February 2019.

District cultural committees were represented during the four 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 four 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 and 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 all the projects has been completed, all the stakeholders will continue to benefit either through the implimentation of the heritage bill, inventories or the implementation of the 2003 convention in their daily activities as defenders or protectors of our cultural heritage.

Capacity building in the community :

All the 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. The 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, knowledgege 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. All the projects that has been completed has been an oppportunity 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 these projects.The Department of Culture with the help of the community will prepare a draft safegurading plan for ich in Seychelles including establishing a system for recognizing traditional bearers.

## 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 leassons 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 Fourth workshop, the participants has manage to contribute towards the finalisation of the heritage bill, Drafting nomination files and participating in conducting inventories, which upon completion will be a powerful tool that will help the community to protect their cultural heritage assets 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.

The four projects provided a first opportunity for the national authorities, the National Heritage, NGO and the Communities to work together for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Seychelles. The role of each partner in any future ich projects will be very helpful. The progress of any future project will be made public through the national news paper, television and flyer so that the most of the Seychellois people will be made aware of any cultural heritage development in our country.

## 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)*

Kindly find attached copies of photographs taken during all different acitivities. Ths list of equipments provided under the project. The participatory video is still being updated and a leaflet will follow.

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

Name: Julienne Barra

Title: Director General Culture

Date: 16.5.2019

Signature: