



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Saint Kitts and Nevis

Project title:	Strengthening inventory preparation capacity for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Saint Kitts and Nevis
Reporting period:	From: 29/04/2019 to: 07/09/2019
Budget:	<p>Total: US\$US\$ 247,824</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$US\$99,443</p> <p>State Party contribution: US\$US\$148,381.00 (including US\$95,416 in kind contribution)</p> <p>Other contributions: US\$</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	St. Kitts Department of Culture - Government of St. Kitts and Nevis
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms.</p> <p>Family name: Phillips</p> <p>Given name: Marlene</p> <p>Institution/position: Research & Documentation Specialist, St. Kitts Department of Culture and SKN ICH Lead Focal Point St. Kitts</p> <p>Address: Victoria Road Basseterre St. Kitts</p> <p>Telephone number: 1(869) 467-1538 or 1(869) 467-1396</p> <p>E-mail address: marlene.phillips@culture.gov.kn</p>
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	Marlene Phillips, Research & Documentation Specialist, St. Kitts Department of Culture and SKN ICH Lead Focal Point St. Kitts St. Kitts Department of Culture Victoria Road Basseterre St. Kitts 1(869) 467-1538 or 1(869) 467-1396 Email:

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Implementing partners:	Pauline Ngunjiri, Executive Director - Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS) and SKN ICH Secondary Focal Point Nevis Tel: 1(869) 469-5786 Email: pngunjiri@nevisheritage.org

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

Nationals of the twin island federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) currently face a serious threat of losing important elements of their intangible cultural heritage (ICH) due to the shared crisis of traditional knowledge bearers growing old and, in some cases dying without transmitting their knowledge, and skills to anyone thus threatening the survival of cultural traditions that have contributed to SKN's national identity. The main goal of this project is to compile a national inventory of recognized ICH elements in St. Kitts and Nevis, including ICH elements in need of urgent safeguarding. The process of developing an inventory is intended to raise awareness about SKN's ICH, highlight the need to develop plans for their safeguarding, and to make preliminary assessments about risks to their viability from natural, and/or man-made disasters.

ICH elements practiced today by tradition bearers, and embraced by SKN communities are primarily expressed through the art forms of music, dance, and drama. During the seventeenth century estate owners permitted enslaved Africans to congregate freely between Christmas Eve, and New Year's Day when crop production stopped during the festive season. Africans sang, danced, and mimicked estate owners through dramatic performances to temporarily relieve their stress from incarceration. These celebrations originally defined as, "Christmas Sports" have modestly survived, and are performed today by traditional folklore groups the; Masquerade, Clown, Mocko Jumbies, Actors, Bull, and Mummies. They are a popular part of SKN' culture performed regularly at festivals, public and private events entertaining visiting tourists any time of the year, however the quantity of folklore groups once prominent is declining, and the quality of performances is deteriorating. Traditional skills involving masonry work on buildings, and woodwork of traditional boats called lighters used to transport goods (built 1900's to mid 1950's), indigenous traditional heritage through oral history, techniques used in agriculture and sugar production, knowledge of medicinal plants, and animal husbandry are valued ICH elements not being transmitted sufficiently. A national pilot inventorying exercise will help to reveal the degree that culinary traditions have been affected by the changing agricultural landscape, and assist with determining if culinary traditions may require safeguarding.

Prior to signing onto the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, SKN had initiated a few measures to safeguard its folklore tradition, but not in the full scope of ways outlined in the convention. Initiatives currently safeguarding SKN ICH include; documenting folklore performances (video and still cameras), financial contributions to refurbish costumes and props, hosting folklore workshops, organizing folklore competitions, hiring folklore groups to entertain SKN communities during National Carnival, and Culturama in Nevis. National Cultural Icons are also deployed into schools to teach children about traditional folklore dances, dramatic performance, costumes, music, spoken, and written word to create awareness, and transmission of SKN' traditional ICH elements.

SKN folklore traditions in urgent need of safeguarding are the: Actors (1 group- St. Peters, St. Kitts), Mocko Jumbies (2 groups –1 St. Kitts, 1 Nevis), Mummies (1 group St. Kitts), and Bull (2 St. Kitts). These groups remain active by tradition bearers from SKN's communities however, aging senior members soon won't be able to perform the acrobatic skills required in the Actors performance, and some members are losing interest. Cowboys and Indians, Kings and Queens are two folklore traditions that have both become endangered due to the lack of transmission from one generation to the next. Folklore traditions expressed through

dramatic performance: the Bull, Niega Business, Sagwa, David and Goliath (part of the Mummies), School Children, and Quadrille (part of Masquerade) have also become endangered however, there are cultural workers in SKN working to revive some of these lost cultural traditions aided by a few elders who still have memory about how Folklore groups performed in the past. Observation of current traditional folklore groups have revealed inconsistencies in some of their performances, for example; the recitation made in local creole language during the masquerade performance is mispronounced, and the original verses cannot be deciphered. The clown troupe originally had prose to recite, but today they dance in silence. This project will facilitate interviewing tradition bearers in the community to discover original verses spoken during folklore performances to document, and share it with practicing groups to improve their performance, and maintain integrity of SKN's tradition.

The local creole language that helps to define the cultural identity of SKN people expressed in its folklore tradition is also in danger of being lost due to the impact of foreign languages brought with new residents of SKN. Dialects that are spoken in SKN communities directly contribute to expressions used in Masquerade, Mocko Jumbies, David and Goliath, and Niegea Business performances, and must be preserved so that the original pronunciation is available as a resource, and youths in schools will recognize that their local language is an important part of their cultural heritage that should be embraced and treasured. The proposed plan would help to:

- a) Build awareness about the Convention and about the current state of St. Kitts and Nevis' ICH;
- b) Build the capacity of persons in both state and privately run entities to properly document and inventory SKN's ICH;
- c) Identify persons and communities associated with the practice of particular elements;
- d) Ensure that persons associated with particular elements are engaged in the process of developing an inventory as well as ideas about how to safeguard the elements.
- e) Document the processes and components of elements;
- f) Identify elements, which may be in need of urgent safeguarding.
- g) Assess the degree to which elements are endangered due to the possibility of natural or man made disasters;
- h) Provide accurate ICH information, educational materials for the practitioners and communities associated with SKN's ICH. Create public awareness about the importance of safeguarding ICH with development of a website. This project will also help SKN to expand, reinforce and amend, where necessary, existing safeguarding initiatives, by engaging tradition bearers in the community to assist with transmitting their knowledge of folklore dance, music, and costume making to the next generation.

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

In spite of efforts from the St. Kitts Department of Culture-Research and Documentation Unit (SKDC-RDU), Nevis Historical Conservation Society (NHCS), and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF) there has not been a systematic approach to

safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of St. Kitts and Nevis.

- a) Awareness about the Convention and the current state of St. Kitts and Nevis ICH was created through a series of stakeholders meetings held in both St. Kitts and Nevis during the development of the proposal. A UNESCO Consultant, Nigel Encalada, complemented efforts made by the lead Focal Point, Marlene Phillips (St Kitts) and Nevis Focal Point, Pauline Ngunjiri when he spoke to persons drawn from various sectors about the status of ICH as it relates to the 2013 Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- b) Thirty persons drawn from various sectors among them knowledge bearers and 20 trainees were recruited in both St. Kitts and Nevis and awareness created about the 2013 ICH Convention.
- c) The trainees are drawn from communities associated with the practice of particular elements. They are well informed about elements existing in their parishes.
- d) Print outs of case studies that depict the performances of communities in other parts of the world were presented to the trainees during the three workshops. This helped the trainees to confirm that safeguarding ICH was attainable. Working sessions where participants studied the case studies and reported their impressions were popular with the trainees.
- e) In the course of disseminating the content of the Convention, trainees were able to identify elements that may be in need of urgent safeguarding

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

1. PHASE 1: TRAINING OF TRAINERS (2019 Period: 6 Months)

A. ICH desks were established and ICH coordinators identified (1 St. Kitts, 1 Nevis) for administrative support to implementation institutions: St. Kitts Department of Culture (SKDC), Nevis Historical Conservation Society (NHCS), and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF). The coordinators liaised with community stakeholders, organized ICH Research Teams and updated them about meetings and workshop dates.

The Training of Trainers workshop was preceded by a launch ceremony that mobilised national support of the project by political leaders, technocrats in the civil service, government departments, private sector and the public at large. A cross section of knowledge bearers were invited to perform at the ceremony. Speeches made at the launch ceremony were in keeping with workshop 1 Trainers and Trainers workshop topics. The launch ceremony was suggested by the then UNESCO Secretary General, Antonio Maynard. This national mobilisation approach was successful and widely covered by the local media outlets, radio, TV, news websites and by bloggers.

B. A UNESCO ICH global facilitator, Nigel Encalada conducted one (1) 5 days capacity building workshop in SKN training 25 stakeholders (St. Kitts 15, Nevis 10) about: main principles of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, obligations for implementing convention at the national level. St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) two (2) ICH Focal Points accompanied the global facilitator for the purpose of becoming national trainers.

The training workshop focused primarily on the implementation of the Purpose of the Convention as it relates to other conventions such as World Heritage (1972), Diversity of Cultural Expression(2005). Discussions were centred around Article 17.

In both St. Kitts and Nevis Article 17 No 2 that speaks to elements in need of urgent safeguarding. In St. Kitts participants highlighted the traditional string band, Actors, street theatre and traditional toys. In Nevis participants highlighted giant spear, traditional games, pottery and ship building skills.

There was a general misconception by participants that the project would lead to income generating activities within a short period of time. The importance of the two year pilot project was emphasised so that proper awareness is created to the trainees before there is a focus on economic activities.

There were others who thought the UNESCO fund would be used to finance knowledge bearers but this misconception was cleared after focal points explained the objective of the project.

In certain instances, the publications's technical language was difficult for trainees but after presentations, the trainees would understand.

All implementing agencies have the relevant equipment required to conduct successful workshops such as projects, internet service and furniture.

C. SKN Focal Points accompanied by workshop trainees replicated the workshops in both St. Kitts (1) and Nevis (1) to; raised ICH awareness, increased community buy in for convention implementation, and build capacity with 40 new recruits (St. Kitts 25, Nevis 15). In both St. Kitts and Nevis ICH is promoted and institutionalised through government programs driven by the departments of culture and festival secretariats. The existing structures enabled the Focal Points to recruit trainees. The Department of Culture, St. Kitts, Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NHCS) and the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society received cooperation from authorities, institutions and the public at large because of the linkage with UNESCO. The supervisory role by the Jamaica Cluster office also gave credibility to the project. Trainees took the trainings seriously and were happy to be associated with a UNESCO project.

2. PHASE 2: COMMUNITY BASED INVENTORYING (2019-2020 Period: 5 Months)

In preparation of the Community Based Inventorying where 50 persons will be trained (30 St. Kitts, 20 Nevis) to research, and document, ICH elements recognized by SKN Communities (Parishes: 9 St. Kitts, 5 Nevis) including elements in need of urgent safeguarding, the following has been purchased:

4 Storage Cabinets that lock, 16 Digital Cameras with video capabilities and accessories, 16 Audio Recorders and accessories, 3 Desktop Computers with Antivirus, ICH Data Archiving Computer Software (Past Perfect 5.0) for 3 desktop computers and 25 licenses for training, 16 4TB External Hard Drives, 9 1TB Pen Drives, 36 Memory Cards 32GB, 36 AA Batteries (2/PACK), 4 UPS (uninterrupted power supply) 1 for Server (1500) & 3 (750 VA) for Computers, 1 Local Server, 1 Local Access Point, 1 All-in-one Colour Printer/Scanner/Copier, Video Projector, Projection Screen.

The equipment was purchased online through a wire transfer. The Focal Points was facilitated by the Ministry of Finance to do the wire transfers. Lead Focal Point Marlene Phillip worked closely with two Nevis based special documentalists, Almon Dasent attached to Nevis Historical and Conservation Society and Patrick Howell attached to Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF).

The equipment and the software will be shared proportionately between St. Kitts and Nevis.

During the training workshops on both islands, it was pointed out that there is need to check critically examine the content of the inventories that exist at the Ministry of Culture, St. Kitts documentation/research unit, Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHC) archives and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF) as certain elements have been documented. The participants were informed that such documentation was required to be inkeeping with the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Convention.

A cross-section of the 50 trainees in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis have basic knowledge of equipment, soft ware and IT. Several are TV and radio producers. Others already working in archives and research departments while others already teach ICH in schools. There are others involved in coordination of cultural festivals while others are knowledge bearers.

Implementing agencies and agencies represented by trainees including community groups feel strongly that the UNESCO funded project will build their capacity. Trainees have welcomed and embraced this training opportunity and are looking forward to attending the Community Based Inventorying workshop.

In both St. Kitts and Nevis implementing agencies have physical secretariats where the project is being implemented. At the community level, there exists well equipped community centres owned by governments where trainees can carry out their activities.

Trainees are already identifying knowledge bearers and creating awareness of the importance of community based inventorying. The training workshops have empowered them and enabled them to be confident when they talk to knowledge bearers and the public at large. The term ICH is becoming a household name in both islands.

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

UNESCO consultant, Nigel Encalada visited St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) accompanied by SKN UNESCO Secretary General, and SKN ICH focal points, and had consultative meetings with government ministers, permanent secretaries, directors, department of culture staff, and Nevis Cultural and Development Foundation – Staff. Content of the Convention was disseminated by Mr Encalada during stakeholders meetings with: community development officers, education officers, knowledge bearers, librarians, heritage consultants, youth directors, documentalists, visual artists, community festival representatives, agriculture officers, novelists, and members of the Chamber of Commerce. Stakeholders were informed about the proposal for funding being developed to safeguard SKN ICH, and they contributed to the discussion. The following social networks were established: <https://www.facebook.com/ich.skn>
<https://www.facebook.com/stkittsnevisICHculture/> to provide a way for stakeholders to continue their involvement in developing the project, and to share ICH safeguarding activities happening in their community. This plan of action was based on feedback provided by communities, and stakeholders during the mission. Several stakeholders provided feedback, and approval for submission of this International request:

The beneficiaries of SKN ICH Project are members of the SKN community who will receive training, and gain skills in research, data processing, analysis, interviewing, digital video/still camera, audio recorder, and archiving software. They will learn about the importance, and

relevance of UNESCO 2003 ICH Convention, implementation of the SKN ICH Project, and will conduct ICH Research missions verifying, or discovering new ICH, reporting on findings within their community. The goals are: to engage members of SKN community, encourage them to treasure their ICH, and transfer traditional knowledge to their children ultimately becoming safe-guarders of their own ICH, community members will gain new skill that will be a valuable resource for future ICH research, and it will improve their marketability to the general workforce when applying for jobs. Communities will conduct activities, and programs that safeguard cultural heritage during annual festivals, namely Nevis Culturama, and SKN National Carnival. The Ministry of Culture in St. Kitts, and the Nevis Cultural Development Foundation are actively involved in documenting and storing ICH data, but this has been done outside parameters of the convention. The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society, and institutions like St. Kitts National Archives, St. Christopher National Trust, and National Museum continue to store documented data, photographs, audio and video recordings, and artefacts that relate to ICH. Due to the popular festivals adults, youth, and children celebrate their ICH through pageants, songs, dance, and display material culture during festival parades. Craft houses in both islands encourage and facilitate knowledge bearers to produce items that help safeguard ICH. The governments in St. Kitts and Nevis have established outlets, Amina Craft Market in St. Kitts, and the Artisan village in Nevis, through which tourists purchase ICH, in addition to knowledge bearers whose outlets are located in their villages.

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

The government of St. Kitts, and Nevis Island Administration has already created a sustainable infrastructure for ICH through the Ministry of Culture - St. Kitts, Nevis Historical and Conservation Society, and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation. However, adherence to ICH Convention guidelines is missing, but will be disseminated widely after the funding request is approved. State Party Contributions for this project are \$147,328.00 including the addition of staff intended for a permanent secretariat to sustain future ICH activities. Annual allocation of funds towards safeguarding ICH will be determined after results of this project are assessed.

The Project will be implemented by a national St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Organizing Team (OT) comprised of St. Kitts Department of Culture-Research and Documentation Unit (SKDC-RDU), Nevis Historical Conservation Society (NHCS), Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF), and ICH Community Research Teams (CRT) recruited from SKN Communities to conduct field research.

The SKN ICH OT will provide administrative support to the ICH CRT's to ensure safeguarding initiatives by: establishing a secretariat to coordinate activities, manage budget, organize ICH planning meetings for data collection, establish ICH CRT's, source ICH experts, initiate training workshops, create a marketing campaign to promote ICH and safeguarding measures, liaise with SKN Community stakeholders, government departments, NGO's, private and public sector organizations endorsing this project, cultural policy evaluation, legislative development, and follow-up initiatives: mid to long-term need to

conduct a full inventory, and develop educational materials in partnership with communities.

Statutory bodies such as the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society, and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation are already charged with raising funds to run cultural programs. The successful receipt of funding via this International Request along with the successful implementation of the proposed initiatives will be a catalyst for developing other proposals to assist with sustaining the implementation of the Convention in the medium and long-term. St. Kitts government and Nevis Island Administration have mechanisms through which they support knowledge bearers by offering training, grants, and small loans. The Development Bank in the Federation funds knowledge bearers. Craft houses established by the governments and the artisan villages in Nevis and Amina Craft Market in St. Kitts and Nevis are functional, and ideal outlets for items produced by knowledge bearers. State funding departments offer technical assistance to knowledge bearers as well as the Development Bank and the craft houses. The Ministry of Tourism craft market outlets comprised of items by ICH knowledge bearers. During annual festivals items produced by ICH vendors are promoted through fairs, and parades. The SKN ICH Project will elevate awareness about the need to safeguard St. Kitts and Nevis ICH, and demonstrate ways that the private sector can get involved, and contribute directly to programs that support tradition/knowledge bearers transferring knowledge to young people.

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

Attainment of expected results:

The availability of a UNESCO consultant, Nigel Encalada, during the proposal writing stage helped the focal points to see the importance of engaging the communities early enough. The consultant also met authorities in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis during this stage. These gatekeepers i.e ministers of government, Permanent Secretaries and Directors were responsive when the time came to implement the project.

Trainers of trainers and trainees are now well versed with the content of the 2013 ICH Convention. It is not right to underestimate the intelligence of communities. They are capable of understanding International conventions. They now understand there is a community of nations and hence the importance of international co-operation.

Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement: Drawing trainers and trainees from sectors related to elements needing safeguarding helped the trainees to understand and interpret the Convention within the community settings. Trainers of trainers identified trainees from the communities they come from.

Delivery of project outputs:

30 persons were trained in St. Kitts and 20 in Nevis. They are capable of training community groups. They are now very familiar with the Convention.

Project management and implementation:

It is important for ICH to be hosted managed and implemented by existing agencies especially if those agencies have linkages with governments and communities. In the St. Kitts and Nevis scenario, the Ministry of Culture is a Stage entity. The Nevis Cultural

Development Foundation has strong linkages with communities and knowledge bearers. The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society is an independent Non Governmental Organisation that plays a leading role in management of museums, archive and research. These are the implementing agencies and this offers an enabling environment for management and implementation of the project.

Sustainability of the project after the assistance:

St. Kitts and Nevis has already instituted Intangible Cultural Heritage through school based programmes. Knowledge bearers already teach students. These knowledge bearers are paid by the government. Some of them have been recruited to participate in the ICH project. These school outreaches will continue.

There are community annual festivals such as Carnival in St. Kitts and Cultrama in Nevis through which ICH is highlighted .

Lending agencies such as banks and government supported income generating programs support ICH

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)

- W1_ST KITTS EVALUATION REPORT_SKN ICH
- Report: Phase One Workshop 2 St. Kitts_SKN ICH UNESCO Capacity Building Project
- FINAL W2 SCHEDULE_130619
- W2_St Kitts Evaluation Report_Skn Ich
- W2_Participants Evaluation Survey

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Marlene Phillips

Title: St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) Lead Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Focal Point St. Kitts

Date: 04/10/19

Signature:


St. Kitts and Nevis Department of Culture