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

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

**Twelfth session**

**Jeju Island, Republic of Korea**

**4 to 9 December 2017**

**Item 8.a of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Reports of States Parties on the use of International Assistance  
from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

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| **Summary**  Article 24.3 of the Convention provides that ‘The beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage’. This document covers the reports submitted by States Parties, during the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, and presents an overview of the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism.  **Decision required:** paragraph 19 |

* + - * 1. Overview of reports

1. Article 24.3 of the Convention provides that ‘The beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.’ Such financial International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund is described in Chapter V of the Convention and Chapters I.4 and I.14 of the Operational Directives. This document presents all the reports received after the reporting period for the eleventh session of the Committee, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.
2. During the reporting period, twenty-four projects supported with International Assistance were active[[1]](#footnote-1) for a total amount of US$2,204,905. The present document includes eleven reports submitted by beneficiary States between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017. Reports on each of the eleven projects concerned are available to download in the language in which they were submitted at the links indicated below:

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| **Project** | **Beneficiary** | **Amount granted (US$)** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso (No. 00678) | Burkina Faso | 262,080 | 29/04/2013-01/07/2016 | Final report:  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45827)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-burkina-faso-00678) |
| Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in Côte d’Ivoire in view of its urgent safeguarding (No. 01051)  Emergence Assistance | Côte d’Ivoire | 299,972 | 09/12/2015- 08/12/2018 | Progress Report:  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45832)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-present-in-cote-d-ivoire-in-view-of-its-urgent-safeguarding-01051?) |
| Titajtakezakan. Speaking across time: oral tradition and use of information and communication technologies (No. 01249) | El Salvador | 24,995 | 07/02/2017- 31/05/2018 | Progress Report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45595)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/titajtakezakan-speaking-across-time-oral-tradition-and-use-of-information-and-communication-technologies-01249) |
| Inventorying and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Pygmy populations in Gabon (No. 00949) | Gabon | 24,560 | 01/09/2015-01/12/2017 | Progress report:  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45557)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-pygmy-populations-of-gabon-00949) |
| Promotion of traditional pottery making practices in Eastern Kenya  (No. 01021) | Kenya | 23,388 | 14/09/2016- 11/12/2017 | Progress report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45791)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/promotion-of-traditional-pottery-making-practices-in-eastern-kenya-01021) |
| Safeguarding of Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa proverbs and folktales  (No. 01060) | Malawi | 90,533 | 30/06/2016- 16/06/2017 | Progress report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=43686)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-nkhonde-tumbuka-and-chewa-proverbs-and-folktales-01060) |
| Inventory of intangible cultural heritage in Mali with a view to its urgent safeguarding (No. 01026)  Emergency Assistance | Mali | 307,307 | 06/12/2013-02/11/2016 | Final report:  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45491)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-mali-with-a-view-to-its-urgent-safeguarding-01026) |
| Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments. Pilot phase in the Maritime region, south Togo (No. 00912) | Togo | 24,950 | 09/12/2015-09/12/2016 | Final report:  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=43665)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-safeguarding-and-promoting-knowledge-of-how-to-manufacture-and-play-togo-s-traditional-musical-instruments-pilot-phase-in-the-maritime-region-south-togo-00912) |
| 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 | Final report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45731)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-promotion-of-bigwala-gourd-trumpet-music-and-dance-of-busoga-kingdom-in-uganda-00979) |
| Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community in Luano District of Zambia (No. 01216) | Zambia | 24,999.90 | 26/09/2016- 29/09/2017 | Progress Report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=43678)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-of-proverbs-of-lala-community-of-luano-district-of-zambia-01216) |
| Inventorying of the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District (No. 01217) | Zambia | 24,928.30 | 12/08/2016- 30/06/2017 | Final report:  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=45786)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-of-the-music-and-dance-of-the-lozi-and-nkoya-people-of-kaoma-district-01217) |

1. Summary information on all the reports submitted for this reporting period is presented in the annex to this document. The period covered by each report varies from one report to another, depending on the specific dates for each project, as agreed upon between the beneficiary State and UNESCO at the time at which the contract governing the assistance is established.
2. Thirteen other projects are ‘active’ although no report was due during the reporting period. The table below provides an overview of these projects, including information on reports to be submitted in the future:

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| **Project** | **Beneficiary** | **Amount granted (US$)** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| Promotion of earthen ware pottery-making skills in Kgatleng district  (No. 01153) | Botswana | 68,261.10 | 13/02/2017- 09/03/2018 | Mid-term report due in September 2017  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/promotion-of-earthen-ware-pottery-making-skills-in-kgatleng-district-01153) |
| Chapei Dang Veng (No. 01306) | Cambodia | 238,970 |  | Contract to be established  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/chapei-dang-veng-international-assistance-01306) |
| Safeguarding of the traditional knowledge for the protection of sacred natural sites in the territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí, Vaupés Province, Colombia (No. 01224) | Colombia | 25,000 | 01/06/2017- 28/02/2018 | Progress report due in September 2017  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-the-traditional-knowledge-for-the-protection-of-sacred-natural-sites-in-the-territory-of-the-jaguars-of-yurupari-vaupes-province-colombia-01224) |
| [Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantánamo](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/identification-definition-and-inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-cuban-province-of-guantanamo-01213) (No. 01213) | Cuba | 65,744.60 |  | Contract under establishment  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/identification-definition-and-inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-cuban-province-of-guantanamo-01213) |
| Documenting and inventorying intangible cultural heritage of the pastoralist Samburu community in northern Kenya: a focus on the region of Mount Kulal biosphere reserve (No. 01024) | Kenya | 24,038 | 04/12/2015-31/05/2016 | Administrative closure in August 2016  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/documenting-and-inventorying-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-pastoralist-samburu-community-in-northern-kenya-a-focus-on-the-region-of-mount-kulal-biosphere-reserve-01024) |
| Safeguarding of Enkipaata, Eunoto and Olng’esherr, three male rites of passage of the Maasai community  (No. 00888) | Kenya | 144,430 | 13/02/2017- 17/01/2020 | Mid-term report due in June 2018  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-enkipaata-eunoto-and-olng-esherr-three-male-rites-of-passage-of-the-maasai-community-00888) |
| Inventorying of intangible cultural heritage elements in Thaba-Bosiu in Lesotho (No. 01118) | Lesotho | 24,998 | 12/08/2016- 28/02/2017 | Final report due in October 2017  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-elements-in-thaba-bosiu-in-lesotho-01118) |
| Revitalization of the female chants of Taroudant (No. 01307) | Morocco | 70,440 |  | Contract under establishment  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/revitalization-of-the-female-chants-of-taroudant-01307) |
| Documentation and inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Sudan (No. 00978) | Republic of Sudan | 174,480 | 30/06/2016- 31/12/2017 | Mid-term report due in July 2017  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/documentation-and-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-republic-of-the-sudan-a-pilot-project-in-kordufan-and-blue-nile-regions-00978) |
| Strengthening capacity in Seychelles for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (No. 01158) | Seychelles | 90,000 | 13/02/2017- 16/03/2018 | Mid-term report due in October 2017  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-capacity-in-seychelles-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-for-sustainable-development-01158) |
| Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda (No. 01310) | Uganda | 97,582 | 26/06/2017- 30/06/2020 | Mid-term report due in June 2018  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/promoting-intangible-cultural-heritage-education-in-institutions-of-higher-learning-in-uganda-01310) |
| Safeguarding indigenous vernacular architecture and building knowledge in Vanuatu (No. 01214)  Emergency Assistance | Vanuatu | 23,908 | 10/08/2015 15/12/2015 | Administrative closure in October 2016  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-indigenous-vernacular-architecture-and-building-knowledge-in-vanuatu-01214) |
| Safeguarding the oral traditions and expressions of the Dzao people of Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces of Viet Nam (No. 00599) | Vietnam | 24,350 | 08/07/2015 30/06/2016 | Administrative closure in November 2016  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-the-oral-traditions-and-expressions-of-the-dzao-people-of-lao-cai-and-lai-chau-provinces-of-viet-nam-00599) |

1. Among the above-mentioned projects, it should be noted that five received technical assistance[[2]](#footnote-2) through the provision of experts suggested by the Secretariat and agreed upon by the requesting States. This was the case for requests granted to Côte d’Ivoire, Lesotho, Seychelles, Togo and Uganda (No.00979).
2. One project was withdrawn by the requesting State after approval by the Bureau (Decision 11.COM 1.BUR 1.2), namely the ‘Safeguarding the knowledge systems associated with Traditional Fijian (iTaukei) house (Bure) construction methods in Navala village, Fiji’ submitted by Fiji for an amount of US$25,000.
   * + - 1. State of implementation of International Assistance
3. Since the establishment of the procedure for examining requests for International Assistance and as at 30 June 2017, thirty-seven States Parties had been granted financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for a total amount of US$3.57 million in support of sixty-three projects. Although this amount is not insignificant, it represents a moderate 23 per cent of the funds that the General Assembly of States Parties has allocated to International Assistance since the establishment of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. While all electoral groups are represented with the exception of Group I, more than half of the requests approved were submitted by States Parties from Electoral Group V(a), Africa, representing US$2.23 million or 63 per cent of the amount of assistance granted, in line with UNESCO’s global priority Africa.
4. The most common purpose of granting International Assistance, both in terms of assistance approved and amounts granted, is to support the preparation of inventories of intangible cultural heritage present in the territory of beneficiary States Parties, as provided for in Article 20 (b). Through International Assistance, State Parties have expressed a real need for concrete support for inventorying, which is in line with one of the main obligations for States to safeguard intangible cultural heritage at the national level, as stipulated in Article 12.
5. The most visible delivery modality for International Assistance projects is through training workshops on acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to develop an inventorying methodology. The activities proposed are typically restricted to a specific region of the country, since the inventorying methodology requires the active participation of communities at the local level. Recent trends also show that certain beneficiary countries are using the new knowledge obtained through the International Assistance projects to replicate a similar process in other regions as part of their safeguarding strategies.
6. It is, however, observed that developing an inventorying process tailored to the particular circumstances and specific contexts of the target beneficiaries requires more substantive support and guidance from the Secretariat in relation to the implementation of the projects, rather than simply the provision of financial assistance. Furthermore, if the International Assistance project is to produce lasting results, such as through the establishment of a solid framework or methodology for inventorying, as set out in the eligibility and selection criteria for International Assistance in Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives, more systematic monitoring from the Secretariat is required.
7. In relation to emergency requests, the Secretariat has continued to provide special support for their preparation and implementation. During the reporting period, technical assistance was thus provided to Ecuador (which finally decided to withdraw its request) following the earthquake in 2016 as well as to Niger, with a focus on revitalizing and mobilizing intangible cultural heritage practices for resilience and dialogue between displaced and host communities. Another major achievement was the completion of some of the first cases of emergency assistance granted in the framework of the Convention, i.e. the three-year project in Mali as well as the one in Vanuatu.
8. In addition, in order to further support States Parties in the preparation of the requests as well as to improve their quality, capacity-building materials on preparing International Assistance requests have been developed and are currently being tested in a number of countries, although their implementation relies on extrabudgetary resources. The Secretariat also continues to provide support for the technical assistance mechanism (five newly granted during the reporting period) set up by the Committee to assist States through the provision of experts.
9. Despite the moderate increase in the use of the funds for International Assistance from the last reporting period (from 13 per cent to 23 per cent, as estimated above in paragraph 7), the under-utilization of the funding available under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund remains a major challenge. During the last three sessions, the Committee only granted three International Assistance requests, one of which was combined for the first time with an inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List. This low number of International Assistance requests was partly counterbalanced by the twenty-three International Assistance requests granted by the Bureau (of which three were emergency assistance requests).
10. During the reporting period, from July 2016 to June 2017, eight new requests for International Assistance were approved by the Bureau of the Committee for a total of US$591,170: four in October 2016, two in February/March 2017 and two in May 2017, in comparison to the one request that was approved by the Committee at its eleventh session. That is, 89 per cent of the approved projects were examined by the Bureau on the basis of recommendations made by the Secretariat, rather than the Evaluation Body. The number of requests processed by the Secretariat also demonstrates a clear increase during the current reporting period.
11. In order to support the work of the Bureau and in accordance with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assesses each of the requests to be examined by the Bureau and prepares a recommendation, which is then submitted to the Bureau for its review. The Secretariat also provides substantial technical advice to submitting States on how to improve their requests through detailed comprehensive letters indicating any missing information, so that requests may be examined in the best possible situation.
12. The greater involvement of the Bureau and the Secretariat in the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism is expected to increase with the revision of the Operational Directives since its adoption at the sixth session of the General Assembly, which increased the ceiling of the assistance examined by the Bureau from US$25,000 to US$100,000. On the one hand, this increase in the ceiling is expected to make it easier for States Parties to access International Assistance, as it allows States to have both an International Assistance request up to US$100,000 and a nomination considered in the same year, and therefore contributes to reversing the trend of under-utilization of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. However, on the other hand, this is likely to result in a non-negligible increase in the number of projects treated by the Secretariat and examined by the Bureau. The wider scope and more complex nature of such projects would also have a considerable impact on the work of the Secretariat, which accompanies their implementation. Serious consideration therefore needs to be given to these expected consequences in order to ensure the effective implementation of the International Assistance mechanism.
13. In this light, ensuring the monitoring and follow-up of the increased number of approved projects raises further challenges for the overall implementation of the International Assistance mechanism. At a time when the Convention is working towards developing an overall results framework for the implementation of the Convention, the need for regular monitoring and evaluation to track and measure the effects and impact of the Convention through projects funded by the International Assistance mechanism could not be more timely. Monitoring is an important dimension in the implementation of International Assistance as it can help States Parties to achieve the expected results as well as create favorable conditions for sustaining project outcomes and further consolidating the impact of the projects on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the mid and long term. However, the Secretariat’s capacities, at this stage, do not allow for more than the basic administrative follow-up, let alone more substantial monitoring and analytical reviewing of the results and impact of International Assistance projects. Such efficient analysis and systematic, in-depth monitoring, which is indispensable for the effective implementation and sustainable management of the International Assistance mechanism, would indeed require a substantial investment in terms of time and resources.
14. Another issue raised concerning the International Assistance mechanism is the difficulty expressed by certain States in implementing the projects due to insufficient institutional capacities and resources. This has resulted in demands for more direct intervention and support from the Secretariat. In light of this difficulty and following the discussions of the General Assembly at its sixth session, the Secretariat is currently exploring the appropriate modality for provision of services (as provided by Article 21 (a) to (h)) that do not limit the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism to the mere provision of financial grants (Article 21 (g)). This alternative, which would be implemented by UNESCO through its Field Offices at the request of the submitting States, is expected to contribute to further activating the utilization of the Fund and providing direct support to national safeguarding efforts in line with the global capacity-building programme of the Convention. Internal consultations with the relevant services, such as the Bureau of Financial Management, are ongoing.
15. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 8.a

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM/8.a,
2. Recalling Article 24.3 of the Convention,
3. Expresses its satisfaction that countries from Electoral Group V(a) continue to be the main beneficiaries of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and encourages countries from other Electoral Groups to consider this mechanism of assistance in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in their territory;
4. Thanks the beneficiary States for their timely submission of final or progress reports for projects that benefit from International Assistance under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
5. Appreciates the impact that the assistance has brought to the beneficiary States for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories and further encourages them to continue to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the results of the projects;
6. Notes with satisfaction the promising results of the emergency International Assistance provided through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and also encourages Mali and Vanuatu to continue its efforts towards social cohesion and reconstruction despite the contextual difficulties;
7. Requests that the Secretariat ensure, whenever possible, that contracts established with beneficiary States provide for the submission of final or progress reports, as appropriate, by 30 June so that it may take note of the use made of the assistance provided in a timely manner and invites current and future beneficiary States to respect the deadlines for submission of reports as established under their respective contracts;
8. Acknowledges the need to enhance the human capacities of the Secretariat on a lasting basis in order to provide more sustained and substantive support to beneficiary States in the implementation of projects financed by International Assistance and better monitor the overall implementation of this mechanism.

**ANNEX**

**Summary information on State Parties’ reports on the use made of  
International Assistance**

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| **BURKINA FASO** | **US$262,080** | **Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso (No. 00678)** |
| *Granted:* | 2012 ([Decision 7.COM 10.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/7.COM/10.1)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 29/04/2013 – 17/05/17 | |

The objectives of the project were to ensure capacities to inventory and promote intangible cultural heritage with the participation of Burkina Faso communities and cultural institutions. Despite political instability in the country in 2014 to 2015, the project persisted with impressive community participation, reinforcing custodian and institutional capacities and mechanisms for safeguarding the country’s intangible heritage.

The first phase of activities centered on building inventorying techniques and structures, taking into consideration the viability of the elements and ensuring collaboration between the various stakeholders – community members, NGOs, universities and government representatives – at the local, regional and national levels. Some 267 people benefited from training, including 167 practitioners, and 1,295 elements were inventoried in 13 regions that cover 145 provinces and 135 communities. The second phase of activities focused on developing strategies to promote inventorying and safeguarding practices in a wider sense, again collaborating with all the stakeholders. A series of broadcast discussions and television and radio programmes contributed to raising awareness, as did workshops on building capacities to promote intangible heritage. Dissemination took place through various channels, including a website and publications.

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| **CôTE d’IVOIRE** | **US$299,972** | **Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in Côte d’Ivoire in view of its urgent safeguarding (No. 01051)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015: ([Decision 10.COM 1.BUR 2.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 09/12/2015 – 04/07/2017 (ongoing) | |

The political and military crisis in Côte d’Ivoire between 2002 and 2011 hindered efforts to identify and document intangible cultural heritage, with the violent suppression of many living traditions having a traumatic impact on their social functions and continuity. In this context, the present project focuses on inventorying with a view to the urgent safeguarding and valorization of the country’s intangible heritage, while contributing to the consolidation of intercommunity understanding and dialogue, peace and lasting stabilization in Côte d’Ivoire under the National Programme for Social Cohesion.

The first phase of the project has successfully carried out a series of community-based training activities involving strong community participation and close collaboration with local, regional and national administrations. Documentation equipment has been procured, and some 200 elements have been documented, with an electronic inventorying system currently being designed. Safeguarding measures are in the process of being integrated into national heritage law, and a programme for integrating community-based inventorying into the national education system is under preparation. The integrated, consultative and inclusive approach of the project has involved all stakeholders from the outset, including the Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs, and has created a strong platform for the ongoing realization of activities, despite some initial budgetary and communication problems, which have been resolved. Nevertheless, despite the strong commitment of the national implementation team, the project is experiencing considerable delays due to internal instability as well as national administrative complexities in managing the funds released.

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| **EL SALVADOR** | **US$24,995** | [Titajtakezakan. Speaking across time: oral tradition and use of information and communication technologies](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/titajtakezakan-speaking-across-time-oral-tradition-and-use-of-information-and-communication-technologies-01249) (No. 01249) |
| *Granted:* | 2016 ([Decision 11.COM 3.BUR 5.2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_3.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 07/02/2017 – 30/06/2017 (ongoing) | |

This project takes a highly participatory approach and gives a leading role to youth in inventorying oral traditions among Nahuati speakers in communities present in the municipality of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, in the west of El Salvador. The limited number and advanced age of Náhuat speakers threatens the continuity of these traditions, through which much traditional knowledge is transmitted. The involvement of young people – namely, secondary-school students – and the use of new technologies in the inventorying process are central to the project, which is being carried out in cooperation with parents, schools and local municipal authorities.

Activities conducted to date include working with local educational structures, teachers, students and parents to identify and recruit twenty-two youth to participate in the project, community consultations with Nahuati-speaking elders and the wider communities, one training workshop to introduce inventorying techniques such as fieldwork approaches, data collection and entry, and interviews with elders, during which knowledge of their oral traditions was shared for the inventory. Due for completion in July 2018, the project is well underway with ongoing interviews with elders taking place in parallel with the development of the inventory. Further activities include the dissemination of printed and audiovisual materials on oral traditions in Spanish and Náhuat.

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| **GABON** | **US$24,560** | **Inventorying and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Pygmy populations in Gabon (No.00949)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 1.BUR 1.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 01/09/2015 – 03/07/2017 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by the Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation (Ministry of Digital Economy, Communication, Culture and Arts), this ongoing project focuses on carrying out community-based inventorying adapted to the cultural context of Pygmy communities in Gabon. It aims to develop an appropriate methodology prior to the documentation and identification of elements, including those requiring urgent safeguarding, and to prepare a national action plan for their safeguarding. Following a theoretical training session on community-based inventorying for the steering committee of the project in 2016, two training workshops have been held in Akieni in the High-Ogoue region and another in Medambo in the Ogoue-Ivindo region (both in 2017). Participants included Babongo and Bakoya community members and more than twenty elements and various types of know-how are referred to as having been inventoried to date.

Remaining activities in the project include the organization of three additional training workshops for Babongo and Baka communities, the preparation of a national action plan for the safeguarding and promotion of the living heritage of these communities and the creation of thematic brochures to raise awareness about the heritage of Pygmy communities. The report refers to difficulties encountered during implementation to date. These include the challenges of translating the concepts of the Convention from French into the local languages and administrative delays at the national level.

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| **KENYA** | **US$23,338** | **Promotion of traditional pottery making practices in Eastern Kenya (No. 01021)** |
| *Granted:* | 2016 ([Decision 11.COM 1.BUR 1.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 14/09/2016 - 10/07/2017 (ongoing) | |

This highly participatory and ongoing project aims to safeguard and revitalize traditional pottery-making practices of the Mbeere, Tharaka and Tigania communities in Eastern Kenya through capacity building, documentation and research and by diversifying pottery forms and modes of transmission. Transmitted by females within families, the technique involves creating clay pots of various sizes and shapes depending on the function and style of the community concerned. The craft, which is closely linked to social practices and foodways, also contributes to families’ livelihoods.

Implemented by the National Museums of Kenya, the project’s first activity was carried out after initial delays due to the late arrival of funds and the subsequent need to reschedule activities, avoiding heavy rains and accommodating farming obligations. The first activity - making kilns in each community - required identifying knowledgeable community members for their construction, along with suitable materials. Research and documentation were simultaneously carried out to better understand evolving pottery-making practices and ways to modernize practices while using traditional techniques so as to boost incomes, with caution exercised in relation to the adverse impacts of commercialization. A two-day training workshop was held in Mbeere; only a few women were able to attend the training because of family obligations and the majority of the participants were children. The training for women, which was rescheduled in each community for the second phase, has attracted a high level of interest, with over fifty women enrolled.

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| **MALAWI** | **US$90,533** | **Safeguarding of Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa proverbs and folktales (No. 01060)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 10.c.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/10.COM/10.c.1)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 30/06/2016 – 01/12/2016 (ongoing) | |

The proverbs and folktales of Malawi’s Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa people from the Karonga, Rumphi and Lilongwe districts are an essential vehicle for the transmission of traditional knowledge, wisdom and culture. Responding to their declining practice and a near absence of any recordings, this ongoing project aims to build capacities in community-based documentation through field-based inquiries and in inventorying. A further aim of the project is to produce publications that would contribute to the revitalization of the element.

The first round of activities, which were carried out with notable efficiency from August to December 2016 through collaboration between the Museums of Malawi, the Oral Traditions Association of Malawi – Mzuzu Chapter, the Center for Language Studies and the National Library Service, involved thorough preparations and consultations with the participating communities, along with the identification of suitable trainees to take part in two workshops held in August 2016. One of these workshops was for researchers, while the other was for research assistants, and the focus was on documenting proverbs and folktales using conversational and audio-visual techniques. Both groups included members of the communities in which fieldwork took place, ensuring their representation and the use of local languages. Following the training of four researchers and six research assistants, they were dispersed to the Karonga, Rumphi and Lilongwe districts between October and December 2016. So far, some 156 proverbs and 153 folktales have been recorded audio-visually, and will be transcribed for language-related publications, and produced in audio-visual formats for awareness-raising and educational purposes in the next phase of the project.

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| **MALI** | **US$307,307** | [**Inventory of intangible cultural heritage in Mali with a view to its urgent safeguarding**](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-mali-with-a-view-to-its-urgent-safeguarding-01026) **(No. 01026)** |
| *Granted:* | 2013 ([DECISION 8.COM 3.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-13-8.COM_3.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 06/12/2013 – 10/04/2017 | |

Through community-based inventorying, the project contributed to reinforcing custodianship and confidence in living traditions among communities affected by the traumatic occupation of armed groups and extremists in Mali’s northern and east-central regions. Prohibitions on cultural practices ranging from rituals, traditional music and festive events to craftsmanship were imposed on these communities in Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal and Mopti, amidst a climate of fear that profoundly affected populations throughout the country. Bringing community members, leaders and cultural institutions together, the activities built up inventorying capacities and, in the process, heightened understanding, cooperation and dialogue among the communities and other stakeholders dedicated to safeguarding Malian intangible cultural heritage. Prioritising formerly occupied areas, activities included a training programme aimed at transmitting teaching skills to community members so as to ensure sustainability beyond the project, as well as strengthening regional antenna teams and developing a national inventorying strategy.

The project outcomes surpassed the expected results, with 249 persons trained, 211 elements inventoried and intensive community participation in all areas; planning, research, documentation and identification. Government support continues with efforts to integrate the inventorying of intangible cultural heritage into economic, social and cultural development programs at the local and regional levels, with the cooperation of communities.

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| **TOGO** | **US$24,950** | [**Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments. Pilot phase in the Maritime region, south Togo**](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-safeguarding-and-promoting-knowledge-of-how-to-manufacture-and-play-togo-s-traditional-musical-instruments-pilot-phase-in-the-maritime-region-south-togo-00912) **(No.00912)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([decision 10.COM 2.BUR 5.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-10.COM_2.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 09/12/2015 – 09/02/2017 | |

Documentation relating to making, playing and the social meaning of traditional musical instruments that accompany dances among communities of south Togo’s Maritime region were lacking in Togo’s general inventory, prepared in 2011. This pilot project therefore focused on involving local community members, particularly youth, in field-based identification, documentation and inventorying, as well as in the practical making and playing of the instruments, with the aim of ensuring the transmission and viability of the element. Through training workshops and hands-on community-based research with practitioners and custodians, the project participants, with the support of government agencies and specialists, compiled an inventory describing and categorizing instruments and their manufacturing, referring to their sociocultural functions and viability.

In the process, 6000 youth from local communities were engaged in consultations to raise awareness of both the project and the importance of safeguarding living traditions through interventions in educational institutions. A further fifty-five youth received instruction in making and playing the instruments, of which ninety-six were documented under specific categories. Information was recorded using audiovisual media, and an exhibition documenting the inventorying processes was held for awareness-raising purposes. The project was designed to inspire communities to transmit their living traditions from generation to generation, and its results will be used as a basis to develop a project across the country.

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| **UGANDA** | **US$24,990** | **Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda (No. 00979)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([DECISION 10.COM 1.BUR 1.2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 01/09/2015 – 31/08/2017 | |
| *Related element:* | [Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of the Busoga Kingdom in Uganda](https://ich.unesco.org/en/USL/bigwala-gourd-trumpet-music-and-dance-of-the-busoga-kingdom-in-uganda-00749) (USL 2012). | |

The project merged with ongoing safeguarding initiatives of the Busoga communities of Eastern Uganda to revitalize and strengthen Bigwala music and dance traditions, which play a key role in maintaining Busoga collective memory, cultural values and social unity. Involving the performance of five or more gourd trumpet players, each producing a single tone blown in hocket to produce a melody, community members of all ages participate freely, singing, dancing and forming a circular movement around the instrument players.

Efforts to safeguard the element, which traditionally marks events such as coronations and royal burials along with other major occasions, made leaps forward thanks to the project. Taking a highly integrated approach, activities involved local communities and councils, as well as the National Council of Folklorists of Uganda (NACOFU) – the implementing agency – and Kyambogo University, all working together to encourage youth to learn the tradition, while launching awareness-raising initiatives including a Busoga festival. The initial goal to train 30 youth and teachers in Bigwala-making was surpassed, with some 120 community members learning the skills and, in the process, improving the livelihoods of local farmers producing gourds. Similarly, the 197 youth trained in Bigwala playing and the 200 trained in the dances exceeded the 90 foreseen for each aspect. Villagers and schools showed great enthusiasm for trainee performances through events organized by village councils. Audio-visual documentation was carried out by the NACOFU and made publically accessible, and today, the project has become a model for others in Uganda.

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| **ZAMBIA** | **US$24,999.90** | **Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community of Luano District of Zambia (No. 01216)** |
| *Granted:* | 2016 ([DECISION 11.COM 1.BUR 1.4](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 26/09/2016 – 28/02/2017 (ongoing) | |

This ongoing project addresses the safeguarding of proverbs of the Lala communities living along the eastern portions of the Luangwa River in the Luano District, in the Central Province of Zambia. Through community-based inventorying, it aims to document and raise awareness of this declining oral tradition, which embodies many of the Lala cultural values transmitted by elders in many contexts from marriage to land use and dispute settlement. Thus far, activities have focused on planning for the entire project, in consultation with various stakeholders and notably the traditional leader of the Mboroma Chiefdom, who represents several Districts in which the fieldwork is to take place. During an initial field trip, the process of identifying custodians and practitioners to take part in the inventorying was launched and remains in progress, with further time required to secure consent due largely to the hilly topography and wide distribution of the communities. Equipment has been purchased, including laptops, voice recorders and digital cameras.

Implemented by the Department of Arts and Culture of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, the next phase of the project will include the dissemination of the inventoried material and awareness raising around safeguarding this living heritage, mainly among youth and through school-based culture clubs and non-formal settings.

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| **ZAMBIA** | **U$24,928.30** | **Inventorying of the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District (No. 01217)** |
| *Granted:* | 2016 ([Decision 11.COM 2.BUR 2.2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_2.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)) | |
| *Reporting period:* | 12/08/2016 – 30/06/2017 | |

Concerned about growing threats to the viability of traditional music and dance practices among the Lozi and Nkoya communities of the Western Province of Zambia, the project sought to familiarize the communities with the objectives and mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, and more specifically, with community-based inventorying through a field practicum.

A parallel motivation for the project was to bring the communities together to safeguard their shared music and dance traditions, despite tensions relating to disputed lands.

While challenges arose due to weather conditions hindering transport, and friction between some leaders, the project activities were carried out within the schedule. A workshop introducing the 2003 Convention took place after community consultations and with the participation of six custodians, nine practitioners and cultural heritage professionals. This set the background for the community-based inventorying exercise, which launched the first inventory of Lozi and Nkoya music and dance practices. Six songs and five dances of the two communities were inventoried as a starting point for ongoing identification and documentation efforts. Awareness about and enthusiasm for safeguarding this heritage has been raised within the communities and among government and other cultural institutions, with other specific outcomes including an exhibition and the publication and distribution of 400 brochures on the exercise.

1. . Projects considered ‘active’ are unterminated projects supported by International Assistance that have been approved by the Committee or its Bureau, whether or not they are yet materialized in a contract. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . At its eighth session, the Committee requested that the Secretariat ‘devise a means, on a shorter-term basis’ and experimentally, ‘offer technical assistance, through the provision of experts, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, to States Parties wishing to elaborate requests for International Assistance, thanks to the funds available in budget line 2 of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund’ ([Decision 8.COM 7.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/D%C3%A9cisions/8.COM/7.c)). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)