



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# Progress Report

<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening the capacities of Eritrea for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
<b>Target Country or Region</b>	Eritrea
<b>UNESCO Budget code</b>	199GLO4000 (WBS element 199GLO4000.8)
<b>Funding source</b>	Kingdom of Norway voluntary supplementary contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
<b>Total Budget approved</b>	US\$278,164
<b>Reporting Period</b>	21 March – 31 October 2014
<b>Executing Agency</b>	UNESCO
<b>Implementing partners</b>	Cultural Affairs Bureau Eritrea National commission for UNESCO National Museum of Eritrea Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre College of Arts
<b>Project starting date</b>	21 March 2014
<b>Project completion date</b>	20 March 2016
<b>Responsible Sector</b>	UNESCO Culture Sector
<b>Name of Persons completing Report</b>	Ms Mulekeni Ngulube (UNESCO Nairobi)

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## **I. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND**

The project aims to assist Eritrea to strengthen its capacities for safeguarding the living heritage in its territory in accordance with the UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which the country ratified in 2010. Through a number of workshops previously organized by UNESCO (e.g. the national workshop in 2009 in Asmara and the regional workshop for the Directors of Culture organized in 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya - in the latter workshop the Director of the Cultural Affairs of Eritrea participated) the need to enhance national capacities in the field of intangible cultural heritage in the region and in Eritrea in particular became apparent.

Eritrea is home to vibrant and wide range of living heritage practiced and enjoyed by nine main ethno-linguistic groups. For a long time, the social and cultural role of cultural heritage and its importance for sustainable development were not fully appreciated within the country. This is mainly because of the long war of liberation during which the national development strategy concentrated on issues such as external relations, food security and health. However, the tide is turning; the Eritrean Constitution supports the promotion of culture and a draft national culture policy has been elaborated. Eritrea has also begun working on a strategy to promote the role of culture for social cohesion and sustainable development as evidenced by the holding of an annual cultural festival which encourages the participation of communities from all parts of Eritrea.

Despite such will at the national level to recognize the positive role of culture and heritage, culture is still not a priority for funding in Eritrea. This is why there has not been adequate stakeholder involvement in few activities undertaken by the Eritrean government regarding the 2003 Convention. As a result, governmental institutions, experts and communities are not aware of its scope, provisions and objectives. Furthermore, the national capacity to spearhead the implementation of the 2003 Convention is limited both in terms of the numbers of personnel and their expertise in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Within the framework of the UNESCO's global capacity-building programme for strengthening national safeguarding capacities, the present project was established in order to help Eritrea enhance its national capacities. More specifically it intends to provide support to the revision of legislative and policy frameworks, build capacities to draw up inventories and to benefit from the intergovernmental mechanism of the 2003 Convention such as the international assistance and inscriptions on the Lists.

The project is financed by the supplementary voluntary contribution from Norway to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund under the 2003 Convention, earmarked to support capacity building in Eritrea. The UNESCO Nairobi Office in collaboration with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section is responsible for the implementation of the project, working closely with the national project coordination team, which is the Sub Committee on Intangible Heritage. Membership includes the National Commission of Eritrea for UNESCO, the National Museum of Eritrea, Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre and College of Arts among others, under the leadership of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

This report covers the first 7 months of the implementation since the decentralization of the funds to the UNESCO Nairobi office on 21 March 2014; during this period, a consultation meeting took place in Asmara, Eritrea in order to plan the details of the project. The preparation phase of the project took longer than expected and the implementation has been delayed by several months but it is still envisaged that all activities be completed within the planned project duration of 24 months.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **a) Decentralization of the project**

In December 2012, at its seventh session, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage approved the use of the voluntary supplementary contribution (2012-2014) from Norway to the Intangible Cultural Heritage fund for the implementation of capacity-building activities in several countries, including Eritrea (see Decision 7.COM 19 in

Document ITH/12/7.COM/Decisions). Subsequently, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and UNESCO Nairobi established a work plan to facilitate collaboration with the national authorities (Annex iii). This plan uses a standard project document format and includes a description of methodologies, activities as well as detailed budget and timetable. During the preparation of the work plan the national authorities of Eritrea were consulted by email on the content. The project funds were subsequently decentralized to the UNESCO Nairobi Office on 21 March 2014.

#### **b) Consultation meeting**

The UNESCO Nairobi Office undertook a mission to Asmara, Eritrea from 18 to 24 August 2014 in order to discuss the implementation of the project with key stakeholders.

##### Project management

- It was confirmed that the national project coordination team is assumed by the Sub-committee on intangible cultural heritage (composed of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the National Commission of Eritrea for UNESCO, the National Museum of Eritrea, the Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre and College of Arts and Science); the overall coordination in Eritrea will be assured by the Cultural Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Education.
- Contractual obligations and procedures related to the project were discussed with the Directorate for Finance and Administration under the Ministry of Finance; the national authorities were informed that the project would be implemented using the UNESCO contracts (the implementation partner agreement).
- The mission was also an opportunity to inform the UN colleagues about the project; the UNDP deputy representative for Eritrea was happy to learn of the work that UNESCO is undertaking in the area of cultural heritage and expressed the willingness to support UNESCO in the implementation of its activities in Eritrea and this project in particular.

##### Component I: Strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks

- During the mission preliminary discussions took place on the identification of one national and two international experts who will be tasked to collect information related to existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks; the international expert will be selected amongst the network of facilitators trained by UNESCO to use and adapt the training materials and guidance tools of the Convention's global capacity building programme. The experts will also be asked to propose an action plan for improving the frameworks to align them fully with the provisions of the Convention. The action plan will be discussed during a national stakeholders' meeting with participants who are going to be identified. The expected result is a reviewed draft cultural legislation that will facilitate the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention at national level. At the time of writing this report, the UNESCO Nairobi office is finalizing the choice of experts in coordination with the national authorities of Eritrea. The project coordination team plans to convene this stakeholders' meeting in early 2015 in Asmara, Eritrea.

##### Component II: Community-based inventorying: training and fieldwork

- The project coordination team started discussing the selection of a pilot community who will undertake inventorying activity within the framework of the project. During the annual cultural festival (which coincided with the mission of the UNESCO Nairobi office), several communities showed interest in participating in this initiative; some members of the Sub-committee on Intangible Heritage were requested to discuss with the communities including logistical details. As soon as the community is selected, the project coordination team will establish a list of participants based on the composition of the profile indicated in the project document (five national cultural officers, five district cultural officers and 15 community members). Two international expert facilitators from UNESCO's network and one national expert will be identified for the training in due course; the international experts will be selected amongst the above-mentioned facilitator's network. The training is due to be organized for the second quarter of 2015.

- The project coordination team considers it important to organize the training workshop on inventorying in a town closer to the community selected in order to facilitate the full participation of the communities concerned; this approach is in harmony with that of the UNESCO's capacity building programme under which the current project was designed.
- In order to support the management of the project, the UNESCO Nairobi office is currently in the process of making the funds available to the Cultural Affairs Bureau for the purchase of equipment (see section 15 of the project document, Annex I for the list of equipment to be purchased); the equipment will be used to ensure good coordination for the implementation of the project and to organize various activities both in Asmara and by pilot communities.

#### Component III: Preparing nomination files and International assistance requests

- The project coordination team foresees that the five day workshop be organized in the last quarter of 2015 in Asmara, Eritrea which focuses on the elaboration of requests for International Assistance to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and on the preparation of nomination files for inscription on the Lists under the 2003 Convention. It is also hoped that through this process and the practicum of the training, the participants can come up with a draft nomination and international request.

#### **c) OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- UNESCO Nairobi Office has appointed a half-time programme assistant for help to follow up the implementation of the project. The first contract expires in December 2014 and it is planned that this can be extended in the beginning of 2015.

### **III. PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS**

Since the start of the project, a consultation meeting was organised in Asmara, Eritrea to bring main stakeholders on board and to discuss the details of each of the planned activities. The implementation rate of the project at 30 September 2014 is 21.9% and it is set to further improve by the end of the year when contractual obligations have been finalised with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and with the international experts.

<p><b>Overall goal of the project:</b> The project aims to assist Eritrea to strengthen its capacities for safeguarding the living heritage in its territory in accordance with the UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.</p>		<p><b>Overall assessment:</b> Since the decentralization of the funds to the UNESCO Nairobi office on 21 March 2014, a consultation meeting took place in Asmara, Eritrea in order to plan the details of the project. All stakeholders in Eritrea have agreed with the modalities of the implementation. The preparation phase of the project took longer than expected and the implementation has been delayed by several months but it is still envisaged that all activities be completed within the planned project duration of 24 months.</p>		
Expected Results	Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Target (T) /baselines (b)		Achievement(s)	Outputs contributing to expected results
	Programmed	Attained		
<p><b>Expected Result N°1:</b> Eritrea establishes the institutional infrastructure required for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Advisory support provided to put in place adequate institutional infrastructure (dedicated departments, committees, strategies or action plans, etc.) for Eritrea <b>T/b:</b> At least 1 consultation/policy review meeting</p>	Activities not yet taken place	n/a	<p><b>Output/deliverable 1:</b> advisory support provided to put in place adequate institutional infrastructure (dedicated departments, committees, strategies or action plans, etc.) for Eritrea</p>
<p><b>Expected Result N°2:</b> Eritrea establishes a framework and methodology for inventorying intangible cultural heritage with the participation of communities, groups and relevant NGOs</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> number of inventorying framework and or methodology established <b>T/b:</b> at least 1 Inventorying framework and or methodology established</p>	Activities not yet taken place.	n/a	<p><b>Output/deliverable 1:</b> Training delivered on theoretical and practical aspects of community-based inventorying, applying a gender-responsive approach in Eritrea</p>
<p><b>Expected Result N°3:</b> Eritrea utilizes the strengthened institutional and human resources, both female and male, from government, civil society and communities, for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Number of cultural officers, community representatives and NGO members trained <b>T/b:</b> at least 20 people (community representatives, cultural officers, and NGO members) trained</p>	Activities not yet taken place	n/a	<p><b>Output/deliverable 1:</b> Training delivered on the international mechanisms of the Convention and on preparing requests for International Assistance and nominations to the Lists</p>

#### **IV. SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT/TRANSITION STRATEGY**

The establishment of a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is the main objective of the project. In order to achieve this aim, UNESCO works closely with the national authorities to implement the project effectively. It systematically covers the core concepts of the Convention and provides the country with a thorough understanding of their obligations at the national level, and a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention. The project will help demonstrate to government officials and stakeholders how the Convention can be implemented in practice; including undertaking such activities as policy development, community-based inventorying, enhancing capacities to request international assistance and to elaborate nomination files for the Lists of the Convention.

Every activity is planned with the relevant stakeholders and implemented through the project coordination team that is coordinated by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. During the project, additional local experts will be invited depending on the subject in order to join a national task team, which will be responsible for continuing with various activities, especially inventorying, even after the closure of the project. In the framework of this project, UNESCO and the partner institutions pay particular attention to the choice of workshop participants while taking into account gender equity and the presence of youth.

The strengthening of the Sub-committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage as a key implementing partner, shall also serve to ensure the sustainability of the expected results beyond the completion of the project. Planned to be conducted over a substantial time period of 24 months, this integrated capacity-building strategy should have a real and lasting impact and equip Eritrea with the human resources and technical know-how necessary to continue implementation of the Convention effectively.

This project includes systematic evaluation of the training and services provided and the materials produced.

#### **V. WORK PLAN**

There is no change to the content and the sequence of the planned activities but the timetable has been updated to absorb the delay experienced at the start of the implementation (see Annex ii).

#### **VI. VISIBILITY**

The publication of a short news item on the website of the Intangible Heritage Section of UNESCO is planned for after the Launch in February/March 2015 in order to inform the public of the progress of the project.

As part of the awareness raising, the local project coordination team which is the Sub Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage is planning a high profile launch of the project and to produce a flier on the Project in order to engage the media and the wider public.

Furthermore, the donor's support will be mentioned on the website and in all documents emanating from this project. The project will also receive attention during statutory meetings through relevant working documents and presentations by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention. Local representatives of the Government of Norway will also be invited to key activities during the implementation of the project.

#### **VII. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROJECT**

- Communication is extremely difficult with Eritrea mainly because of slow and haphazard internet connection within the country; this is one of the main reasons why it took a long time to bring all stakeholders on board to organize the first consultation meeting.

- Obtaining a visa to go to Eritrea is another logistical challenge; the programme specialist for Culture at UNESCO Nairobi waited for more than 12 weeks before she was able to travel to Eritrea, first to get the approval for the mission and then to obtain an entry visa; it takes additional ten days for receiving a permission to leave Asmara to visit field sites; all these requirements make the travel arrangement time consuming.
- The national authorities wish to approve each aspect of the implementation of the project; while this is a welcoming sign that the project is fully owned by the beneficiary country, their internal decision making process can be lengthy, contributing to further delay in the implementation of the project.

## **VIII. ANNEXES**

### **i. List of national and international staff**

#### International staff

Mr Mark Patry (UNESCO Nairobi)

Ms Mulekeni Nglube (UNESCO Nairobi)

Fumiko Ohinata (Intangible Cultural Heritage Section)

#### National staff based in UNESCO Nairobi

Mr Walter Matoke, Programme Assistant

ii. Revised timetable

Original timetable 

Revised timetable 

\* Month 1 starts with the decentralisation of the project to UNESCO Nairobi on 21 March 2014.

Activities	Months																								
	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Consultation meetings with stakeholders																									
<b>Component I: Strengthening Policy, legal and Institutional Framework</b>																									
Review of existing policies and legal frameworks and Institutional mechanism																									
<b>Component II: Community-based inventorying &amp; Field Work</b>																									
Community based inventorying and field work																									
<b>Component III: Preparing Nominations and International Assistance Requests</b>																									
Preparing nominations, proposals and requests																									
Evaluation																									
Follow-Up implementation Plan by National Task Team																									
Monitoring																									

iii. Project work plan

 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Project Title:</b> Strengthening the capacities of Eritrea for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage</li> <li>2. <b>Beneficiary Country/Countries:</b> Eritrea</li> <li>3. <b>Time Frame:</b> 24 months</li> <li>4. <b>Funding source:</b> Voluntary supplementary contribution from Norway to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund</li> <li>5. <b>Co-funding sources, if any:</b> N/A</li> <li>6. <b>Total estimated budget, including 10% support costs:</b> US\$278,164-00</li> <li>7. <b>International Executing Agency:</b> UNESCO</li> <li>8. <b>Responsible Sector/Division/Field Office:</b> UNESCO Office in Nairobi</li> <li>9. <b>Name of the project officer:</b> Mulekeni Ngulube (Ms)</li> <li>10. <b>Partners (external and/or UN):</b> None</li> <li>11. <b>Executive Summary:</b>  <p>This project aims at enhancing the national capacity of Eritrea to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It intends to build a critical level of experience and knowledge, both in government institutions, civil society and in selected communities, so that the country is equipped with an appropriate sustainable framework for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention on a long term basis.</p> <p>In particular, the project will pay due attention to the adequacy of institutional environments, abilities and strategies to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks and the strengthening of national expertise in the field of culture.</p> <p>Concrete outputs of the project include revisions of policy or legislative frameworks, a pool of resource persons operational in Eritrea to effectively implement the 2003 Convention and an inventory of intangible cultural heritage elaborated with the broad participation of at least one community.</p> </li> </ol>
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## 2. Background/Context

Eritrea is situated in the Horn of Africa, connecting the continent with Middle East and Asia. As a powerful crossroad for trade, Eritrea has managed to create a strong cultural identity of its own by keeping alive its oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship while accepting influences from other continents. Hence, Eritrea offers a vibrant living cultural heritage, testament of all the cultural influences gathered in the region along centuries.

Eritrea has nine ethno-linguistic groups each with distinct cultural expressions. Out of them, Tigrinya is the dominant group both demographically and politically. But even the intangible heritage within Tigrinya ethnic group remains undocumented and largely ignored in development strategies. Similarly the other groups such as the Kunama, Nara, Bilen, Sahao, Afar, Tigre and others remain without safeguarding support.

In general, the role of cultural heritage is insufficiently appreciated in Eritrea because of the long war of liberation during which national priorities concentrated on issues such as external relations, food security and health. However, the Eritrean Constitution supports the promotion of culture and a National Cultural Policy was elaborated, but it has not been adopted. The recent efforts by government has raised interest among the new generation of Eritreans and the Diaspora who are now eager to improve the international image of the country through cultural festivals and public performances that are aimed at promoting the multicultural diversity of Eritrea. The political actors also seem to slowly have begun to understand and appreciate the value and promotion of heritage as resources for nation building and sustainable development but inadequate professional capacity and financial resources have been a hindrance.

Culture in Eritrea is managed through the Cultural Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Education. The Cultural Affairs Bureau works together with other institutions such as the National Museum of Eritrea and the Eritrea Documentation and Research Center, under the umbrella body responsible for implementation of all the cultural conventions, is the Sub-Eritrean World Heritage Committee (EWHC). Because numerous organisations deal with intangible cultural heritage and due to their lack of experience, coordination is relatively poor, unlike the tangible cultural heritage protection where implementation of the 1972 Convention is well organised and prioritised.

In 2009, through UNESCO's support, a national workshop on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage was organised in Eritrea. The workshop also discussed the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of heritage in Eritrea. This workshop served as a platform for some of the major stakeholders active in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage to be introduced to the 2003 Convention and its meaning and interpretation at national level. As a result of this workshop, and other forums, Eritrea ratified the 2003 Convention in 2010 and translated the Convention into Tigrinya, one of the national languages.

Furthermore, officials from the Cultural Affairs Bureau have participated in some UNESCO meetings related to intangible cultural heritage. At the 2011 regional workshop on intangible cultural heritage organised in Mombasa, Kenya, two participants from the Cultural Affairs Bureau presented a report on the status of intangible cultural heritage in Eritrea. According to their report, the public is generally aware of cultural heritage, oral traditions and folklore, but most stakeholders are not familiar with the concept of ICH. Practicing of intangible cultural heritage elements is only evidenced in local and national festivals and live cultural performances. There is also awareness demonstrated by state media which highlights specific aspects and elements of ICH without necessarily linking these to the safeguarding of neither ICH nor the 2003 Convention. Although most government project activities in Eritrea are funded by the government, in general, just like in many other countries, culture in Eritrea is not prioritised for government funding, let alone intangible cultural heritage.

Hence, there has not been adequate stakeholder involvement in all the processes undertaken by the government regarding the 2003 Convention. As a result, stakeholders and communities at national level are not aware of the 2003 Convention, nor understand its scope, provisions and objectives. Furthermore, capacity at policy level to spearhead the process is limited both in terms of numbers of personnel and their expertise to be able to inform, organise and coordinate stakeholders around the 2003 Convention. For this Convention to be implemented effectively, there is a need for mobilization and coordination of various stakeholders to better define their respective roles and responsibilities.

Against this background, this project is pertinent and timely for Eritrea as the project will help build capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and promoting the 2003 Convention by involving stakeholders that are managing culture down to communities themselves. It is hoped that with this project, the process for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Eritrea will be taken to a higher level.

### **3. Objectives and expected results**

#### **Development objectives**

- To enable Eritrea to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, thereby contributing to sustainable development at local and national levels.
- To promote better visibility of intangible cultural heritage, awareness of its significance and function in society, and mutual respect for the heritage of others, thereby fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace.

#### **Immediate objectives**

- To assist Eritrea to meet national obligations under the 2003 Convention, in particular with regards to inventory-making and other safeguarding measures.
- To build a critical level of national capacity, (policy, legal, and institutional framework and human resource expertise) for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention.
- To increase the possibilities of Eritrea to benefit from the Convention's mechanisms of international cooperation, including International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

#### **Expected results**

- Increased national awareness about the 2003 Convention and better understanding of its international mechanisms and national obligations.
- National capacity built for the implementation of the Convention in particular in areas of policy and legislation; community based inventorying, preparing international requests to the ICH Fund and elaborating nominations to the Lists under the Convention.
- Policies and legislation revised in favour of intangible heritage and proposals made towards establishing an institutional framework for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Increased knowledge about community-based inventorying.

#### 4. Project Justification

The first cycles of implementation of the Convention highlighted States Parties' need to gain a more complete understanding of the different mechanisms established under the Convention as well as build the human resources or technical know-how necessary to implement the Convention effectively. States Parties themselves have also recognized these needs and have frequently requested that their safeguarding efforts be supported by capacity-building activities organized by UNESCO on different aspects of the Convention.

Most often, States Parties lack awareness of the measures and mechanisms of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at national and international levels. At the same time, they lack the necessary resources to implement the Convention. In some cases, States Parties have not yet advanced sufficiently in the work of inventorying their ICH, which is a prerequisite before an element can be nominated. But even in States that wish to submit nominations and have already begun inventorying, the process of nomination is itself daunting, particularly the elaboration of a complete and adequate nomination file. It is an urgent task to help developing countries to implement the Convention more effectively at the national level and to better benefit from the mechanisms at the international level.

To respond to these significant needs, UNESCO launched a global strategy aimed at strengthening national capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage during the biennium of 2010 to 2011 and UNESCO's strategic emphasis is on strengthening capacities of national counterparts to ratify the Convention, meet their obligations for safeguarding, and benefit from the opportunities and mechanisms of international cooperation created under the Convention. More recently UNESCO has extended the strategy in response to the recommendations of review meetings and an evaluation carried out by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Section. The 'updated' strategy foresees (i) a strengthened component on policy and legislative development, covering the integration of provisions for safeguarding in both, cultural and other relevant development policies, (ii) an extension of the inventorying component to cover also capacity-building for the elaboration of community-driven safeguarding plans (iii) intensified training on how to elaborate International Assistance requests and, finally, (iv) a thorough and systematic consideration of gender perspectives in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

The UNESCO Secretariat of the Convention is in charge of developing training content and materials for the capacity-building strategy. The existing modules on ratifying the Convention, implementing it at the national level and elaborating nominations were recently updated to reflect the latest decisions of the governing bodies. The topic of how to elaborate requests for preparatory assistance for nomination files was added. The module on community-based inventorying was substantially expanded to include new units on documentation, data use and storage and the transition from inventorying to safeguarding.

The units on acquiring practical skills for inventorying were revised to add concrete examples, role play and hands-on exercises. The translation and editing of these sets of materials in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic continues. The translation and editing of these sets of materials in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic continued and a new design and packaging was developed to increase their educational effectiveness and ease of reproduction. materials were subsequently tested in English, and are now at different stages of revision, completion, editing and translation into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. Furthermore, new materials are being developed in three content areas: (i) sustainable development, (ii) gender and (iii) safeguarding.

The approach adopted in developing these materials has been to emphasize the need to adapt them to local contexts and audiences. They suggest interactivity and active learning, using for instance simulations and role-playing activities. To ensure their quality and relevance, these materials have been reviewed by internationally recognized experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage, in cooperation with pedagogical experts.

In addition, a global network of 79 expert facilitators (43% from Africa and 40% women) has been established and trained to use and adapt the materials developed through the strategy. These well-trained experts are now available to conduct workshops on the priority themes. So far some 65 countries have benefited from the global strategy in enhancing their capacities for safeguarding living heritage. Eritrea, which requested to receive assistance to enhance its capacity for the implementation of the 2003 Convention will thus benefit from the lessons learnt from implementing the global strategy, the services of the UNESCO-trained facilitators, the training materials and prior experiences in providing advisory services on policy and legal issues.

This extrabudgetary project enables an integrated capacity-building strategy that will systematically cover the core concepts of the Convention and provide the country with a thorough understanding of their obligations at national level, and a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention. The Project will help demonstrate to government officials and stakeholders how implementation of the Convention can be done at a practical level; including such activities as policy revision, community-based inventorying, preparing requests for International Assistance and preparing nominations on the lists established under the Convention. Planned to be conducted over a substantial time period of 24 months, this integrated capacity-building strategy should have a real and lasting impact and equip Eritrea with human resources and technical know-how necessary to implement the Convention.

## **5. Approach and Methodology**

This project aims to assist Eritrea to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage through effective implementation of the Convention. To that end, it aims to build a critical level of national capacity, in government institutions and among key players from civil society and communities, so that there is a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention on a long-term basis.

### **Methodology**

The project will implement an integrated capacity-building strategy, composed of well-prepared workshops and activities, tailored to respond to the identified needs of the country. The main objective is to provide Eritrea with a thorough understanding of their obligations at national level, and a substantial knowledge of the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention. In particular, the project will pay due attention to the adequacy of institutional environments, abilities to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks and the availability of national expertise in the field of culture.

The above-mentioned UNESCO training materials will be used for these workshops and activities. Experts responsible for conducting the workshops and activities will be selected from the pool of experts within the region who have already received specific training from UNESCO on using and adapting these materials. The experts will familiarize themselves with the identified needs of the country and will revise the generic training materials prepared by UNESCO to fit local specificities. They will assist in developing the training programmes in collaboration with the UNESCO Nairobi and the national counterparts.

### **Project initiation**

At the beginning of the project UNESCO Office Nairobi and an intangible heritage expert will organise consultation meetings with policy makers and key cultural stakeholders in order to jointly develop an Implementation Plan for the Project. The consultations will involve meetings with core stakeholders in Asmara as well as with civil society, members of academia and selected communities in order to ensure their involvement and participation from the beginning. The process will be led by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and will facilitate agreement on modalities of implementation for each activity, trainers to be used, profile of participants for

each component, as well as identification of the community to be targeted for the inventorying component.

Efforts will be made to formally launch the Project in Asmara with the participation of all the relevant stakeholders including line ministries, representatives of cultural groups and community representatives.

### **Exit strategy**

At the end of the project, a national framework (National Task Team) will be established with roles and responsibilities assigned and agreed upon to carry forward the Implementation Plan. The Task team will also be responsible for finalising activities started by the Project such as elaboration of inventory and Nomination file as well as guiding elaboration of international assistance requests. The National Task Team will develop an Action Plan.

## **6. The Major Project Activities**

### ***Component I: Strengthening Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks (Months 2 to 7)***

Eritrea has a Heritage Act which embraces both the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage. The institution in charge of the implementation of all cultural conventions is the Eritrean World Heritage Committee (EWHC) formed by representatives from different Ministries and authorities and this committee works under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education. Although it has a Sub Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is mostly inclined to safeguarding historical and archaeological sites.

In this regard support will be provided to facilitate review of existing policies and legal frameworks in different fields (culture, education, health, agriculture, tourism, etc.) in order to ensure that ICH is safeguarded in the spirit of the Convention and in conformity with codes of ethics, and while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of the ICH and with community participation. Special attention will be paid to gender in order to elaborate provisions that are gender-sensitive and responsive. Along the same lines, the process will also help in proposing a structure/framework with competent bodies and institutions that will be able to assist in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, particularly as regards awareness raising, promotion, capacity building, research, inventorying, and documenting.

Special attention shall be made so that the policy review, legal framework and proposed institutional structure encourages coordination between all stakeholders as well as ministries and institutions other than those in the cultural field such as agriculture, education health etc., as all these have a role to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. In this way it will be possible for the country to create policy, legal and institutional framework that is able to facilitate the required inter-sectoral mechanism for cooperation and coordination for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

One national expert and one international expert will collect information related to all the existing legal frameworks and their associated implementing institutions. The information collected will be analysed with the aim of identifying gaps and challenges. A Draft Report with recommendations and a proposed Action Plan for improving the legal and institutional framework will be tabled at a stakeholders' meeting to be organised by the Project Coordination team. The Meeting will discuss, validate and/or adopt the Report, its recommendations and Action Plan and agree on how to implement it in order to improve the situation.

### ***Outputs for Component I***

- *Awareness about the safeguarding of intangible heritage and the 2003 Convention raised;*
- *Existing policies and legal frameworks reviewed in a way that facilitates coordination between all stakeholders that have a role to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;*
- *Appropriate Institutional framework proposed to facilitate inter-sectoral mechanism for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.*

### **Component II: Community-based Inventorying: Training & Fieldwork (Months 4 to 11)**

Elaboration of inventories is necessary for effective safeguarding of ICH. Indeed, it is the first step of a safeguarding process and thus the main objective of inventorying is safeguarding (and not documentation as such) for the well-being of the community concerned. Inventories furthermore help policy makers and ICH practitioners to be aware of the range of ICH practiced within their borders, and helps them to understand the challenges of safeguarding such elements. As regards the international mechanisms of the Convention, inventorying is in fact required for nominating an element to one of the Convention's lists: the Representative List or the Urgent Safeguarding List. The inventory also clarifies, on which list an element could possibly be inscribed.

#### Activity 1: Workshop : Community based Inventorying

Eritrea has not elaborated an inventory within the context of the ICH Convention. A pilot community based inventorying activity will be undertaken. The Project Coordination Team will select one community for community based inventorying exercise. They will also purchase the necessary equipment needed for inventorying. Once a community has been selected a Local Coordination Team will be established which will be led by the Local Office of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

A ten-day workshop on community based inventorying will be organized in the selected community. This training will provide fundamental principles and practical information on community-based inventorying, using UNESCO's training manual as a guide. The first 6 days will be 'classroom' style training activities aimed at conveying the essential features of inventorying under the Convention as well as developing inventory framework, and technical skills in identification and documentation. The last 4 days will be field-based practicum, carrying out inventorying work in small groups in three or four field locations. These locations will be identified by the Local Coordination Team. Then participants will return to the classroom to focus on organizing the data collected from the field work and to exchange experiences and consolidate their newly acquired skills.

As far as possible the number and profile of participants to this workshop will be determined during the consultation meetings. A minimum of 25 participants will be expected to participate in the workshop; five national cultural officers, five district cultural officers and 15 community members who are themselves the bearers of heritage and the only ones, under the 2003 Convention, who can identify and define whether something is or is not part of their heritage.

The training workshop will be facilitated by one international UNESCO expert identified by UNESCO from the network of trainers supported by a national expert with some knowledge of intangible heritage who will have participated in previous training workshops on intangible heritage.

#### Activity 2: Fieldwork : Community based Inventorying

The workshop will be followed by a three month field work to be undertaken by the 15 members of the communities who will have received the community based inventorying training

programme. A Local Coordination Team will provide support for the field work. The Local Coordination Team will be led by the national expert who had been part of the Training Team. They will guide the community members in terms of how to inventory, but especially, also guiding compilation of information collected into an inventory. The results of the fieldwork will be compiled as Eritrea's first inventory. The government will be encouraged to have this first inventory translated into local language.

Some elements will be selected from the field experience which will be used as case studies for the subsequent workshop on preparing nomination files and requests for international assistance under Component III.

### **Outputs for Component II**

- *25 people (officials, experts, civil society and community members) trained in inventory making;*
- *Field work on community inventorying undertaken;*
- *1 draft inventory elaborated.*

### **Component III: Workshop: Preparing Nomination Files and International Assistance Requests (Months 12 to 13)**

A five day workshop focused on the elaboration of requests for International Assistance to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and on preparation of nomination files for inscription on the Lists under the Convention will be organised through the Project Coordination Team. The training will target government officials, as well as members of the academia and experts from civil society. In total, 20 people are expected to benefit from this training.

Through the workshop, the participants will acquire the basic knowledge and skills required to elaborate nominations to the Two Lists under the 2003 Convention, notably the Urgent Safeguarding List and Representative List. They will also acquire skills in the preparation of requests for International Assistance. One international UNESCO trained expert, supported by a national expert will facilitate the training workshop.

At the end of the workshop, participants will also select a core group of experts to create a National Task Team that will be given responsibility to spearhead implementation of the recommendations made during the implementation of the different activities for the safeguarding of intangible heritage in Eritrea.

### **Outputs for Component III**

- *20 people (government officials, cultural experts, academia and civil society) trained in the elaboration of requests for International Assistance and preparation of nomination files;*

## **7. Risk Analysis and Mitigation**

The project may be confronted with risks that might impact the scope of the results.

The first risk is lack of political will by government to prioritise the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and accepting the Project as important. This would make it difficult to engage with stakeholders at all level which is important for implementation especially the need for cooperation of various Ministries in the revision of legal and policy frameworks. In order for the project to have an impact, the participants to the various activities will need to be drawn not only from the field of culture but also from other fields, since intangible cultural heritage is an invaluable resource for finding local solutions to pressing development challenges, i.e. food

security, health, social cohesion. Therefore it will be important to involve government at the planning stage in order for them to buy-in and jointly develop an implementation plan.

The prevailing security situation along the southern coast and border areas is a source of concern, as it remains volatile and continues to be affected by territorial conflicts. The project, however, will mitigate the risk by targeting communities living in areas considered politically stable. Associated with this is the risk concerning possible lack of commitment and availability for the project for long periods of time by the community members for the inventorying process. This will be mitigated by ensuring that the right community is selected, where there is peace and the community has the passion for its heritage and is willing to share.

With regard to the activities themselves, there is also risk of not having the right experts and participants for the various planned activities. This would ultimately affect the achievement of the objectives as delivery will be poor and capacity will be given to people who will not be able to carry forward the work and sustainability will be jeopardized. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring that the right experts who understand the local context and are familiar with training tools are selected to facilitate the various processes and that the profile of participants selected have authority and passion to carry forward safeguarding of Intangible heritage and implementation of the Convention.

The project might encounter problems associated with rules regarding transfer of funds to Eritrea and other administrative issues. These risks can be mitigated by ensuring to include stakeholders that may not be directly involved in the project but their decisions might have an impact such as the Ministry of Finance.

## **8. Monitoring**

Regular monitoring will be done by UNESCO Nairobi in collaboration with Intangible Cultural Heritage Section. This will be a continuous process throughout the duration of the Project in order to ensure that the implementation of the project respects the work plan, budget and the timeline. Follow-up will be made on each activity with experts and national authorities, ensuring that status reports are done against outputs foreseen as qualitative and quantitative indicators. This will ensure that challenges and problems are identified early and discussed with the national counterparts and the donor as appropriate in order to undertake corrective actions.

## **9. Reporting**

For workshops; evaluation forms will be submitted by participants after each workshop. These will be examined and used to determine the qualitative and quantitative outputs as well as challenges faced and will also inform implementation of subsequent activities with corrective actions undertaken. Most importantly, throughout the implementation period, Reports will be prepared for each activity by experts/national authorities as required and submitted to UNESCO Nairobi. UNESCO Nairobi will in turn consolidate these reports for internal reporting requirements and submission to the donor at different stages during the implementation process. At the end of the Project a Final Narrative Report will submitted to the Donor.

## **10. Evaluation**

Efforts will be made to undertake an evaluation at each stage of implementation of the project in order to assess quality and success in the implementation of the activities and progress towards expected results, challenges and lessons learnt. A final evaluation will be carried out by UNESCO Nairobi at the end of the Project through consultations with stakeholders in particular policy makers in order to establish with them the results of the project, and the way forward.

## 11. Visibility

UNESCO Nairobi and Intangible Cultural Heritage Section will disseminate information about the project through websites ([www.unesco.org/culture/ich/](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/); <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/nairobi>). UNESCO Nairobi Office will attempt to mobilize national media to cover the project; to the extent possible leaders and key members of the communities concerned by the project will be associated to visibility activities.

The donor's support will be mentioned on the website and in all documents emanating from this project. The project will also receive attention at the occasion of statutory meetings through relevant working documents and presentations by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention. Furthermore, the Government of Norway or their local representatives will be invited to key activities during the implementation of the project.

## 12. Follow-Up and Sustainability: National Task Team

This project has been devised to maximize its sustainability and multiplier effect. Indeed, it aims to create in Eritrea a sustainable foundation for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention built upon a critical level of national capacity, both in government institutions and among key players from communities and civil society.

It is expected that during the Project Implementation Process, some experts who will have shown that they have understood the mechanism and processes for the implementation of the Convention will be selected to constitute a National Task Team. The Team will be responsible for continuing with the various activities agreed upon during Project implementation especially inventorying. In particular, implementing various recommendations and proposals for policy review, legal and institutional frameworks. They will also be responsible for working on beginning preparing requests for international assistance and at least one nomination file.

## 13. Project Coordination

UNESCO Nairobi is responsible for the overall implementation of the project with support by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section. At national level a Project Coordination Team will be established to coordinate implementation of the activities. The team will be supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

## 14. Technical assistance

UNESCO will provide a pool of expertise from the region, who have been trained by UNESCO specifically for the purpose of capacity-building in the framework of the 2003 Convention. These will be used to facilitate the various activities under the close supervision of the Nairobi Office, and back-up of the ICH Section. All the workshop and activity documents, including the trainer's and trainee's manuals will be provided by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and adapted by the selected trainer as appropriate.

## 15. Equipment

At the beginning of the project the Cultural Affairs Bureau will purchase, in consultation with UNESCO Nairobi, the following items to be used (the table below indicates which institutions/communities will principally be responsible for the management and use of the equipment during the period of the project).

Items	Quantity	Responsible Organization	To be used by
Laptops	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Coordination Team

Accessories (e.g. USB keys, anti-virus software)	Divers	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Team Coordination
Handheld recorders	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Local community
Microphones	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Local community
Printers	2	Cultural Affairs Bureau	Project Team Coordination

Care will be taken to purchase equipment from local suppliers which provide after-sales service in case of need for maintenance. Upon termination of the project the equipment will be handed over to the implementing partners in consultation with the Cultural Affairs Bureau.