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

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

**Fourteenth session**

**Bogotá, Republic of Colombia**

**9 to 14 December 2019**

**Item 9.b 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 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and presents an overview of the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism.  **Decision required:** paragraph 20 |

* + - * 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 (hereafter, ‘the 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 thirteenth session of the Committee that is from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.
2. During the reporting period, thirty-six projects supported with International Assistance were active[[1]](#footnote-1), for a total amount of US$4,179,471. The present document includes seventeen reports submitted by beneficiary States between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019. The reports on each of the projects concerned are available to download in the language in which they were submitted using the links indicated below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Beneficiary** | **Amount granted (US$) / Decision making Body** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| National Folk Festival of Gjirokastra (NFFoGj), 50 years of best practice in safeguarding Albanian intangible heritage (no. 01516) – *preparatory assistance* | Albania | 9,800  [13.COM 2.BUR 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/6) | 30/11/2018- 31/03/2019 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=53026)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/national-folk-festival-of-gjirokastra-nffogj-50-years-of-best-practice-in-safeguarding-albanian-intangible-heritage-01516) |
| Intangible Cultural Heritage as a basis for resilience, reconciliation and construction of peace environments in Colombia’s post-agreements (no. 01522) – *emergency assistance* | Colombia | 99,400  [13.COM 2.BUR 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/décisions/13.COM%202.BUR/5?dec=decisions&ref_decision=13.COM+2.BUR) | 18/07/2018 - 30/11/2019 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=53030)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/intangible-cultural-heritage-as-a-basis-for-resilience-reconciliation-and-construction-of-peace-environments-in-colombia-s-post-agreements-01522) |
| Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in Côte d'Ivoire in view of its urgent safeguarding (no. 01051) – *emergency assistance* | Côte d’Ivoire | 299,972  [10.COM 1.BUR 2.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%201.BUR/2.1) | 09/12/2015 -08/12/2018 | Final report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54541)  [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?cote_new=01051) |
| Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantánamo (no. 01213) | Cuba | 65,745  [12.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/12.COM%202.BUR/4.2) | 06/03/2018 - 05/03/2020 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=50315)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/identification-definition-and-inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-cuban-province-of-guantanamo-01213) |
| Strengthening the capacities of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea for community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and for elaborating nomination files under the mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (no. 01444) | Democratic People’s Republic of Korea | 98,000  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%201.BUR/3.5) | 03/07/2018 - 02/07/2019 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=53740)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-the-capacities-of-the-dpr-of-korea-for-community-based-inventorying-of-ich-and-for-elaborating-nomination-files-under-the-mechanisms-of-the-2003-convention-01444?) |
| Inventory and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Pygmy populations of Gabon (no. 00949) | Gabon | 24,560  [10.COM 1.BUR 1.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%201.BUR/1.1) | 01/09/2015 - 01/12/2017 | Final report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=51687)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-pygmy-populations-of-gabon-00949) |
| Programme in support of the education system for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage (PASS-TPCI) (no. 01442) | Haiti | 98,970  [13.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.2) | 17/08/2018 - 30/06/2020 | Progress report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=53736)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/programme-in-support-of-the-education-system-for-the-transmission-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-pass-tpci-01442) |
| Safeguarding of Enkipaata, Eunoto and Olng’esherr, three male rites of passage of the Maasai community (no. 00888) | Kenya | 144,430  [11.COM 3.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/11.COM%203.BUR/4) | 17/02/2017 - 17/01/2020 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=52440)  [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) |
| Safeguarding of practices and rare rituals related to sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan: preparation of an inventory and safeguarding measures (no. 01423) | Kyrgyzstan | 99,950  [13.COM 2.BUR 4.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.3) | 19/11/2018 -18/11/2020 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54550)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-practices-and-rare-rituals-related-to-sacred-sites-in-kyrgyzstan-preparation-of-an-inventory-and-safeguarding-measures-01423) |
| Strengthening national capacities in the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in Senegal (no. 01431) | Senegal | 99,889  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%201.BUR/3.6) | 25/07/2018 - 20/01/2020 | Progress report  [French](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=55092)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-national-capacities-in-the-field-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-safeguarding-in-senegal-01431) |
| Strengthening capacity in Seychelles for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for sustainable development (no. 01158) | Seychelles | 90,000  [11.COM 3.BUR 5.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/11.COM%203.BUR/5.3) | 17/02/2017 - 30/10/2018 | Final report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54544)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-capacity-in-seychelles-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-for-sustainable-development-01158) |
| Documentation and inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Sudan (a pilot project in Kordufan and Blue Nile regions) (no. 00978) | Sudan | 174,480  [10.COM 2.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%202.BUR/4) | 30/06/2016 - 31/12/2017 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=50557)  [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) |
| Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda (no. 01310) | Uganda | 97,582  [12.COM 1.BUR 2.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/12.COM%201.BUR/2.2) | 26/06/2017 - 30/06/2020 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=52040)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/promoting-intangible-cultural-heritage-education-in-institutions-of-higher-learning-in-uganda-01310) |
| Community self-documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda (no. 01210) | Uganda | 232,120  [12.COM 11.D.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM/11.D.2) | 23/02/2018 - 10/02/2020 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=51611)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-self-documentation-and-revitalization-of-ceremonies-and-practices-associated-with-empaako-naming-system-in-uganda-01210) |
| Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia (no. 01281) | Zambia | 334,820  [12.COM 11.D.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM/11.D.3) | 02/04/2018 - 01/04/2021 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54321)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthen-the-capacity-for-the-safeguarding-and-management-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-zambia-01281) |
| Enhancing the capacity of communities to safeguard traditional dance expressions as performing arts heritage in western Zimbabwe (no. 01304) | Zimbabwe | 98,927  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.2) | 19/07/2018 - 31/12/2019 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=53080)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/enhancing-the-capacity-of-communities-to-safeguard-traditional-dance-expressions-as-performing-arts-heritage-in-western-zimbabwe-01304) |
| Inventorying oral traditions, expressions, local knowledge and practices of the Korekore of Hurungwe district in Zimbabwe (no. 01312) | Zimbabwe | 93,243  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.4) | 19/07/2018 - 09/07/2021 | Progress report  [English](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/download.php?versionID=54549)  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventorying-oral-traditions-expressions-local-knowledge-and-practices-of-the-korekore-of-hurungwe-district-in-zimbabwe-01312) |

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. Nineteen other projects are ‘active’ although no report was submitted during the current reporting period. The table below provides an overview of these projects, including information on reports to be submitted in the future:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Beneficiary** | **Amount granted (US$) / Decision making Body** | **Implementation period** | **Report** |
| Community based Inventory of ICH in Albania with a view to safeguarding and transmitting to future generations (no. 01253) | Albania | 213,260  [14.COM 2.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%202.BUR/4) | - | Contract under establishment  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventory-of-ich-in-albania-with-a-view-to-safeguarding-and-transmitting-to-future-generations-01253) |
| Chapei Dang Veng (no. 01306) | Cambodia | 238,970  [11.COM 10.A.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/11.COM/10.A.6) | 03/11/2017 - 03/11/2020 | Progress report due November 2018  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/chapei-dang-veng-international-assistance-01306) |
| My Heritage, My Region: strategy for capacity-building in social management of the intangible cultural heritage in two departments of the Colombian Orinoco region (no. 01518) | Colombia | 99,950  [13.COM 3.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.2) | * + 25/03/2019 - 08/06/2020 | Progress report due in September 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/my-heritage-my-region-strategy-for-capacity-building-in-social-management-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-two-departments-of-the-colombian-orinoco-region-01518) |
| Capacity building in community-based inventorying (no. 01529) | Djibouti | 82,080  [14.COM 1.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%201.BUR/3.2) | 02/09/2019 - 26/06/2020 | Progress report due in December 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-in-community-based-inventorying-01529) |
| Development of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage for Shiselweni region in Eswatini (no. 1517) | Eswatini | 64,824  [14.COM 1.BUR 3.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%201.BUR/3.3) | 01/10/2019 - 31/12/2020 | Progress report due in January 2020  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/development-of-an-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-for-shiselweni-region-in-eswatini-01517) |
| Capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through creation of a community based ICH inventory for Luang Prabang (no. 01448) | Lao People's Democratic Republic | 99,886  [14.COM 2.BUR 5.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%202.BUR/5.3) | 07/11/2019 - 03/11/2021 | Progress report due  in July 2020  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-creation-of-community-based-inventory-for-luang-prabang-01448) |
| Strengthening the capacities of NGOs active in the field of intangible cultural heritage in Mauritania (no. 01429) | Mauritania | 94,300  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.7) | 12/07/2019 - 14/07/2020 | Progress report due in September 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-the-capacities-of-ngos-active-in-the-field-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-mauritania-01429?) |
| National Oral Traditions (NOT), additional collection component (no. 01528) | Mauritania | 90,562  [14.COM 2.BUR 5.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.7) | - | Contract under establishment  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/national-oral-traditions-not-additional-collection-component-01528) |
| Safeguarding ICH in Malawi through non-formal learning and transmission (no. 01530) | Malawi | 91,860  [14.COM 1.BUR 3.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%201.BUR/3.4) | 01/07/2019 - 24/06/2021 | Progress report due in April 2020  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-ich-in-malawi-through-non-formal-learning-and-transmission-01530) |
| Aixan (gâna/ōb ǂans tsî//khasigu), ancestral musical sound knowledge and skills (no. 01418) – *preparatory assistance* | Namibia | 10,000  [12.COM 4.BUR 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM%204.BUR/5) | 18/12/2017 - 22/04/2019 | Final report due in April 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/aixan-gana-ob-ans-tsi-khasigu-ancestral-musical-sound-knowledge-and-skills-01418?cote_new=01418) |
| Safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Niger in a situation of urgency and for the resilience of displaced populations - pilot project in Tillabéry and Diffa (no. 01412) – *emergency assistance* | Niger | 257,829  [12.COM 4.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM%204.BUR/4) | 26/06/2018 - 19/12/2019 | Progress reports due in September 2018, February 2019 and June 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/safeguarding-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-niger-in-a-situation-of-urgency-and-for-the-resilience-of-displaced-populations-pilot-project-in-tillabery-and-diffa-01412) |
| Transmitting and stabilizing the folk long performance technique of Limbe performers - circular breathing through the old repertoire to the new generations (no. 01445) | Mongolia | 99,946  [13.COM 3.BUR 4.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.5) | 29/01/2019 - 29/01/2022 | Progress report due in January 2020  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/transmitting-and-stabilizing-the-folk-long-song-performance-technique-of-limbe-performers-circular-breathing-through-the-old-repertoire-to-the-new-generations-01445) |
| Supporting natural and cultural sustainability through the revitalization and transmission of the traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites in Mongolia (no. 01443) | Mongolia | 98,500  [13.COM 3.BUR 4.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.4) | 12/02/2019 - 12/08/2021 | Progress report due in February 2020  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/supporting-natural-and-cultural-sustainability-through-the-revitalization-and-transmission-of-the-traditional-practices-of-worshipping-the-sacred-sites-in-mongolia-01443) |
| Revitalization of the female chants of Taroudant (no. 01307) | Morocco | 70,440  [12.COM 2.BUR 4.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM%202.BUR/4.4) | 15/09/2017 - 13/09/2019 | Final report due in August 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/revitalization-of-the-female-chants-of-taroudant-01307) |
| Pilot project to create a local ICH management committee and first steps towards a national strategy for decentralized ICH management (no. 01523) | Mozambique | 91,430  [14.COM 2.BUR 5.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/14.COM%202.BUR/5.5) | - | Contract under establishment  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/pilot-project-to-create-a-local-ich-management-committee-and-first-steps-towards-a-national-strategy-for-decentralized-ich-management-01523) |
| Strengthening inventory preparation capacity for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Saint Kitts and Nevis (no. 01426) | Saint Kitts and Nevis | 99,443  [13.COM 3.BUR 4.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.1) | * + 07/05/2019 - 01/04/2021 | Progress report due in October 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/strengthening-inventory-preparation-capacity-for-implementing-the-2003-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-saint-kitts-and-nevis-01426) |
| Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo’s traditional musical instruments (national phase) (no. 01425) | Togo | 99,890  [13.COM 1.BUR 3.9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.9) | 11/03/2019 - 28/12/2020 | Progress report due in September 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/inventory-safeguarding-and-promoting-knowledge-of-how-to-manufacture-and-play-togos-traditional-musical-instruments-national-phase-01425) |
| Community-based inventorying and transmission of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in the island of Tongatapu in Tonga (no. 01430) | Tonga | 85,913  [13.COM 2.BUR 4.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%202.BUR/4.6) | 22/03/2019 - 22/11/2020 | Progress report due in September 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/community-based-inventorying-and-transmission-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-island-of-tongatapu-in-tonga-01430) |
| Needs assessment for reinforcing Ukraine's national capacities in strategy development for ICH safeguarding (no. 01422) | Ukraine | 28,500  [13.COM 3.BUR 4.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%203.BUR/4.6) | * + 29/05/2019 - 29/09/2019 | Progress report due in July 2019  [Dedicated webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/assistances/needs-assessment-for-reinforcing-ukraine-s-national-capacities-in-strategy-development-for-ich-safeguarding-01422) |

* + - * 1. Newly granted projects

1. Under the reporting period, seventeen requests (each with an amount up to US$100,000) were submitted by 16 States Parties. The Bureau decided to grant assistance to eleven of them, for a total amount of US$946,981. At its thirteenth session, the Committee only granted one International Assistance request for an amount greater than US$100,000 (Albania no. 1253, US$213,260). In other words, 92 % of the approved projects were examined by the Bureau and 8 % by the Committee.
2. In order to support the work of the Bureau and in accordance with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assessed each of the requests to be examined by the Bureau and prepared a recommendation, which was then submitted to the Bureau for its review. The Secretariat also provided substantial technical advice to submitting States on how to improve their requests through detailed, comprehensive letters indicating any missing information, so that the requests could be examined in the best possible situation.
3. States Parties continued to make use of the technical assistance arranged by the Secretariat, which is aimed at improving the quality of their International Assistance requests. Such assistance was provided through the provision of experts, as suggested by the Secretariat and agreed upon by the requesting States, who provided the submitting State with guidance on revising and finalizing their request. While the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund covers related costs, the submitting State is responsible for ensuring that the implementing agency and national authorities are available during the period of the assistance to devote their time and attention to the cooperation. The assistance is usually provided over a period of eight to ten weeks via phone calls and Skype and, if needed, through an on-site mission.
4. Among the projects which received assistance during the reporting period, seven beneficiary countries received technical assistance: Albania (no. 01253), Côte d’Ivoire (no. 01051), Niger (no. 01412), Lao People's Democratic Republic (no. 01448), Saint Kitts and Nevis (no. 01426), Seychelles (no. 01158), and Zimbabwe (no. 01304). As a general rule, States Parties that face difficulties in revising their International Assistance requests, and particularly those referred by the Bureau or the Committee, are systematically invited to consider receiving technical assistance through the provision of experts. This was the case for recent decisions of the Bureau on requests submitted by Cameroon and Cook Islands.
5. With reference to Article 20 of the Convention, projects can be analysed according to various purposes of the International Assistance mechanism. During the reporting period, inventorying continues to be an important thematic focus amounting at 50%, either on a stand-alone basis or as part of a multi-component articulation. In addition, 33 % of the requests concerned relate to providing support for programmes, projects and activities carried out with the aim of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. In general, they cover a wide range of safeguarding areas, such as awareness raising, revitalization, transmission and strengthening the capacities of communities or relevant professionals and institutions. This points to a continued shift away from a dominant focus on the ‘preparation of inventories’, as observed under the previous cycle. Moreover, the safeguarding of elements of intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding remains an ongoing key purpose of projects financed by the Fund, representing 17 % of the approved requests. Finally, it is interesting to note that no request for preparatory assistance was submitted for preparing nomination files for the Urgent Safeguarding List nor for the Register of good safeguarding practices.
6. At its thirteenth session, the Committee expressed its concerns regarding the possible implications of multiple submissions of International Assistance requests by a single State Party at the same time or in quick succession. The Committee did not consider it to be necessary to limit the number or amount of such requests submitted by a single country at that stage. At the same time, the Committee requested that the Secretariat closely monitor the situation of multiple submissions and report to the fourteenth session ([Decision 13.COM 12](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/12)). Under the reporting period, five States Parties (Albania, Colombia, Kenya, Mauritania, and Zambia) submitted a new request while one or more projects financed under the Fund were ongoing. Similarly, one State (Mongolia) had two requests for assistance granted at the same Bureau meeting.
   * + - 1. General observations
7. Through the implementation of active International Assistance projects under the reporting period, the following observations were made:
8. **Capacity building**: The most common intervention modality for International Assistance projects, regardless of the purpose of the assistance, was once again through capacity-building activities such as training workshops, designed to develop the necessary skills and knowledge in the field of safeguarding. Many of the projects took advantage of the materials and facilitators made available through UNESCO’s capacity-building programme.
9. **Intangible cultural heritage in education**: The inclusion of intangible cultural heritage in education was once again an emerging theme. This trend is coherent with the funding priority set by the seventh session of the General Assembly ([Resolution 7.GA 8](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/7.GA/8)). In total, eight active projects relate to the initiative of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education: Côte d’Ivoire (no. 01051), Haiti (no. 01442), Kyrgyzstan (no. 01423), Malawi (no. 01530), Senegal (no. 01431), Uganda (no. 01310), Zambia (no. 01281) and Zimbabwe (no. 01312). Some of these projects see education as a means through which transmission and safeguarding can be achieved (e.g. projects in Haiti and Senegal). Some other projects consider education as a way to build stakeholders’ capacities. These projects tend to focus on training future professionals in the field, through university networking or integrating living heritage into university courses and degrees (e.g. projects in Côte d’Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
10. **Intangible cultural heritage in emergencies**: The emergency International Assistance modality has proven to be an effective way for States Parties to focus on safeguarding measures directed at the recovery and maintenance of peace in their territories. In this regard, two projects are currently being implemented in Colombia (no. 01522) and Niger (no. 01412), in addition to a completed project in Côte d’Ivoire (no. 01051). Despite their different geographical regions and political contexts, all three projects contribute to ensuring respect for and the viability of the intangible cultural heritage of vulnerable populations that are subject to emergency situations. The projects include activities aiming to establish better relationships between communities, and in some cases to work with living heritage against radicalization, ideologies of hate and cultural prejudices.
11. **Provision of services**: The Secretariat continues to gather experience in managing the provision of services[[2]](#footnote-2) from UNESCO that do not involve a financial transaction from UNESCO to the national implementing agency. Three ongoing projects are partly based on this modality: in addition to the two projects approved by the first meeting of the Bureau in June 2018 (the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea no. 01444 and Senegal no. 01431), the second meeting of the Bureau approved one additional project with this service modality (Saint Kitts and Nevis no. 01426). These three projects are being implemented through the UNESCO Field Offices in Beijing, Dakar and Kingston, respectively, and involve the provision of experts, training the necessary staff, the development of standard-setting measures and the supply of equipment.
    * + - 1. Conclusions and ways forward
12. Since the establishment in 2008 of the procedure for examining requests for International Assistance and as at 30 June 2019, fifty States Parties had been granted financial assistance from the Fund, for a total amount of US$6,58 million in support of ninety-four projects. As demonstrated in Figure 1, all the electoral groups are represented with the exception of Group I; 58 % of the overall amount granted since 2008 benefitted States Parties from Electoral Group V(a), Africa (representing US$3,80 million), which is in line with UNESCO’s Global Priority Africa. This reporting period saw the considerable expansion of the geographical outreach of the mechanism, as 6 out of 12 (50 %) of the requests granted during the reporting period are from States benefitting from International Assistance for the first time. This is the case for Djibouti, Eswatini, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Ukraine.

**Figure 1**. Analysis by Electoral Group and amount of all International Assistances granted since 2008 and as at 30 June 2019

1. With many efforts in the current biennium having been devoted to intensifying the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism – which had been systematically underutilized in the past – the expenditure has increased by 78% compared to the biennium 38C/5 (see [document LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx) for more details). This is a demonstration that States Parties have been making a significantly higher use of the International Assistance mechanism. This positive result can be attributed to three main factors: the increase in the ceiling, from US$25,000 to US$100,000, for the amount of requests that can be examined by the Bureau, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2016 ([Resolution 6.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/6.GA/7)); the high number of requests presented to the Bureau; and a relatively high proportion of requests approved by the Bureau.
2. This trend is captured in Table and Figure 2 below, which outline the evolution of requests examined by the Bureau and the corresponding amounts granted through International Assistances projects, since the establishment of the mechanism in 2008 up to 30 June 2019. The number of requests submitted to the Bureau and the number of requests approved by the Bureau generally increased after the above-mentioned increase in the ceiling in 2016. Cumulatively, there are 42 requests approved by the Bureau during the eight years between 2008 and 2015, while the number of requests approved since 2016 and as at 30 June 2019 is as high as 36. The amount granted is therefore correspondingly higher. In fact, as the maximum amount that the Bureau can approve is four times higher than before, a slight increase in the number of requests approved by the Bureau results in an amplified amount granted. From this trend, it could be concluded that, with the intensified use of the mechanism, the International Assistance has become a significantly more important source of resources for supporting safeguarding efforts by States Parties.

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| **Evaluation cycle** | **No.** **of requests examined by the Bureau** | **No.** **of requests approved by the Bureau** | **Amount granted US$** |
| 3COM (2008) | 8 | 8 | 47,500 |
| 4COM (2009) | 4 | 3 | 41,362 |
| 5COM (2010) | 12 | 12 | 174,232 |
| 6COM (2011) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7COM (2012) | 8 | 6 | 94,692 |
| 8COM (2013) | 5 | 4 | 359,606 |
| 9COM (2014) | 4 | 3 | 63,350 |
| 10COM (2015) | 8 | 6 | 422,418 |
| 11COM (2016)[[3]](#footnote-3) | 9 | 8 | 306,569 |
| 12COM (2017) | 10 | 6 | 526,597 |
| 13COM (2018) | 24 | 16 | 1 404,620 |
| 14COM (2019)[[4]](#footnote-4) | 10 | 6 | 520,642 |

**Figure 2**. Evolution of number of requests and amount granted by the Bureau for International Assistance since 2008 and as at 30 June 2019.[[5]](#footnote-5)

1. The increased use of the International Assistance mechanism by States Parties means that there are more projects to oversee in varying circumstances. This, in turn, provides stakeholders of the Convention with more opportunities to benefit from experiences of implementing projects in different contexts and lessons on how to deal with certain recurring challenges. The potential of these learning possibilities notwithstanding, these operational aspects of the mechanisms could not have been explored until now. In other words, the focus of the Secretariat’s operations should shift to systematic monitoring, lesson learning and assessing the outcomes of funded projects in order to consolidate the International Assistance mechanism with a view to supporting national safeguarding efforts. Moving forward, such a shift will be greatly supported by the newly established Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring (CLT/LHE/SIM) team within the Secretariat.
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 14.COM 9.b

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/19/14.COM/9.b Rev.,
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, in line with Global Priority Africa, congratulates those States that have been granted International Assistance for the first time, and encourages States that have not benefitted from the Fund to consider this mechanism of assistance in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in their territories;
4. Thanks the beneficiary States for their timely submission of final or progress reports for projects benefitting from International Assistance under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and at the same time requests that beneficiary States with projects whose implementation has been delayed take corrective measures to ensure the timely implementation of the projects and the respect of reporting obligations;
5. Appreciates the broadened scope of activities and themes of the projects funded by the Fund as well as the impact that the assistance has had both on the beneficiary communities for ensuring the viability of their intangible cultural heritage and on the States for strengthening their safeguarding capacities, and further encourages them to continue to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the results of the projects;
6. Also encourages States Parties to continue to take advantage of the technical assistance arranged by the Secretariat, which is aimed at improving the quality of International Assistance requests, especially those States Parties that face recurrent difficulties in revising requests referred by the Bureau or the Committee;
7. Notes with satisfaction the ongoing support for emergency International Assistance provided through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and encourages furthermore States Parties with active projects in this sense to continue their efforts to foster peace and cohesion among communities through intangible cultural heritage;
8. Expresses its support for the continuous use of the modality for the provision of services, as provided by Article 21 (a) to (f) and as a complement and alternative modality to the provision of financial grants;
9. Takes note that multiple submissions of International Assistance continue to be submitted and further requests that the Secretariat continue to closely monitor the situation and report thereon to the fifteenth session of the Committee.

**ANNEX**

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

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| **ALBANIA** | **US$9,800** | **National Folk Festival of Gjirokastra (NFFoGj), 50 years of best practice in safeguarding Albanian intangible heritage (no. 01516) – *preparatory assistance*** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 2.BUR 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/6)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 30/11/2018- 31/03/2019 | |
| *Reporting period* | 30/11/2018 – 31/03/2019 (finalized) | |

Overseen by the Academy ODEA, this project was geared at preparing a proposal for the National Folk Festival of Gjirokastra (NFFoGj) for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. The project comprised four key areas: preparatory activities; community consultations; the production of an edited video and ten photographs; and closure activities. Firstly, a Steering Committee was established, comprising five representatives of the institutions responsible for organizing the NFFoGj, and several experts were contracted to oversee specific tasks. Community consultations were then organized to obtain documentary evidence of their consent. Many institutional representatives cooperated in this process, which led to more documentary evidence being obtained than expected. Throughout the stages of the project, an expert in intangible cultural heritage researched and edited audio-visual materials from various archives, leading to the subsequent drafting of the project proposal, which included letters of consent from the practising communities, ten photographs and a five-ten-minute video. Despite some deviations from the expected results, deadlines and budgets the process was generally carried out in line with the work plan. The executive staff of the Academy ODEA learnt some valuable lessons concerning not only the management and implementation of such a project, but also the mechanisms of the Convention.

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| **COLOMBIA** | **US$99,400** | **Intangible Cultural Heritage as a basis for resilience, reconciliation and construction of peace environments in Colombia’s post-agreements (no. 01522) – *emergency assistance*** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 2.BUR 5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/décisions/13.COM%202.BUR/5?dec=decisions&ref_decision=13.COM+2.BUR)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 18/07/2018 - 30/11/2019 | |
| *Reporting period* | 18/07/2018 – 08/05/2019 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by the Fundación Universidad del Norte, this project was aimed at utilizing intangible cultural heritage as a basis for resilience, reconciliation and peacebuilding in Colombia’s post-agreements. In the context of the transition to civilian life of ex-combatants from the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army) and their families, the temporary facility named the Territorial Training and Reintegration Space (ETCR) of Pondores was installed neighboring the village of Conejo, in the Guajira department, northern Colombia. In order to help rebuild the social fabric of the territory, this participatory and action-oriented project has encouraged reconciliation using culture as a tool for dialogue between the host community from Conejo and the former combatants. The project has met the specific objectives set from its inception up to the development of Phases II and III. A workshop was organized to promote educational processes and strengthen intangible cultural heritage management capacities among local cultural managers. A participatory inventory was carried out to identify elements of the living heritage in the territory. Meetings were held between the two communities to promote the creation of social agreements for co-existence between former combatants and the people of Conejo. The participants of the project now demonstrate common interests, overcoming stigmatization. Community participation has been ensured through the involvement of forty people representing various groups from the Conejo community and from the ETCR of Pondores. Participants have benefited from a high degree of empowerment thanks to the process and the project is offering insights for creating a methodology to be replicated in areas where other ETCRs are located.

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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) – *emergency assistance*** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 (Decision [10.COM 1.BUR 2.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%201.BUR/2.1)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 09/12/2015 – 08/12/2018 | |
| *Reporting period* | 09/12/2015 – 08/12/2018 (finalized) | |

Structured around two main phases, this project – implemented by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage – was aimed at producing an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in Côte d'Ivoire, with a view to its urgent safeguarding. As a result, the communities of six regions in the country heavily affected by the political-military crises from 2002 to 2011 have been made aware of the importance of practising their elements of living heritage and its role in consolidating the social fabric. Twenty-four districts were covered during Phase 1, along with a further 104 during Phase 2. By the end of Phase 2, the inventorying teams – composed of 70 per cent community representatives – had identified around 800 elements of living heritage. Stakeholders were equipped with an understanding of the Convention and the principles of participatory inventorying and awareness was also raised through meetings, radio broadcasts, TV commercials and a film. Furthermore, provisions for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage have been included in the draft law on the protection of national cultural heritage, and advocacy for cultural heritage in educational programmes has been initiated. Despite certain unexpected difficulties, notably in relation to the underestimation of the costs involved, the project has notwithstanding achieved several key results. The results of the project have been designed to last beyond its completion. The individuals trained are expected to serve as key resource persons for the future and the inclusion of intangible cultural heritage in the draft law on the protection of cultural heritage should ensure centralized structures are equipped with the means to continue with inventorying as a long-term activity.

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| **CUBA** | **US$65,745** | **Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantánamo (no. 01213)** |
| *Granted:* | 2017 (Decision [12.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/12.COM%202.BUR/4.2)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 06/03/2018 - 05/03/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 06/03/2018 – 01/10/2018 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by the National Council for Cultural Heritage, this project was geared at identifying, defining and inventorying intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantánamo. This province was selected as beneficiary of the project as information in the national inventory was practically non-existent, despite a wide variety of intangible cultural heritage expressions in the territory. The lack of resources to ensure capacity building and fieldwork in the communities had hindered the preparation of effective inventories. The project was thus directed at safeguarding the living heritage present in the province, starting with the strengthening of human and technological capacities to allow for the identification of elements and the elaboration of inventories with and by the communities. The activities undertaken so far have included the organization of workshops, fieldwork, and evaluation visits. Specific activities have included: an awareness-raising workshop on the Convention and the project objectives; a training workshop on the methodologies for drawing up inventories in line with the Convention; preliminary missions to obtain the consent of communities from ten municipalities of Guantánamo; drawing up inventories in these municipalities; and a promotional and awareness-raising campaign on the importance of safeguarding living heritage. The purchase of equipment remains unconcluded due to administrative constraints. Following the project, the province is expected to have a network of trained personnel and basic equipment to support the periodic updating of inventories by the communities, and it is expected that the communities will continue producing their own inventories with the support of national institutions.

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| **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA** | **US$98,00** | **Strengthening the capacities of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea for community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage and for elaborating nomination files under the mechanisms of the 2003 Convention (no. 01444)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 1.BUR 3.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%201.BUR/3.5)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 03/07/2018 - 02/07/2019 | |
| *Reporting period* | 03/07/2018 – 28/05/2019 (finalized) | |

Implemented by the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH), this project was geared at strengthening the capacities of national stakeholders to prepare nomination files and improving community-based inventorying techniques through a pilot inventory. Despite a growing interest in living heritage and many communities’ expressed desire to see elements nominated for inscription, this was challenged for several reasons, such as: the insufficient understanding of the Convention and its specific requirements; the insufficient material resources; and the lack of full knowledge of how to undertake community-based inventories. The overall objective of the project was successfully achieved. In particular, the organization of a training workshop on community-based inventorying and the preparation of nomination files not only contributed to building the capacities of the staff and experts concerned, but also stimulated broad sectors of society to partake in the process. After the training workshop, a pilot community-based inventorying exercise was successfully carried out in selected communities by a survey team of six people. The exercise was conducted on three elements. In each community, the team members met with the bearers and practitioners of the element and other relevant stakeholders. The implementation of the project has contributed greatly to building the capacities of staff, experts and community members concerned throughout the country and the NAPCH is now expecting to extend the inventorying activities to other elements. Equally, the documentation equipment acquired is expected to have a considerable impact on future documentation and the updating of inventorying activities at both national and local levels.

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| **GABON** | **US$24,560** | **Inventory and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Pygmy populations of Gabon (no. 00949)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 (Decision [10.COM 1.BUR 1.1](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%201.BUR/1.1)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 01/09/2015 – 01/12/2017 | |
| *Reporting period* | 01/09/2015 – 01/12/2017 (finalized) | |

Implemented by the Directorate for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, this project was aimed at inventorying and promoting the intangible cultural heritage of pygmy peoples in Gabon. Specifically, the project has trained community members and representatives of the associations concerned in inventorying techniques and equipped them with the technical, theoretical and material means to promote and safeguard their living heritage. The following key results have been achieved: an alphabetical register of the intangible cultural heritage of the communities concerned, according to their state of viability; an online database; a national safeguarding action plan; the broadcasting of radio and television programmes; and the preparation of thematic sheets relating to four key elements. Awareness has been raised among the bearers concerned about potential threats to their living heritage and the safeguarding measures adopted have been relayed to the communities concerned. The initial schedule for the implementation of the project was respected, though several challenges were encountered along the way, for instance in relation to translation issues and the need to make the Convention more accessible for the communities. The project has raised awareness about the state of viability of the living heritage of the communities, resulting in the development of a safeguarding plan. The online database should provide a valuable tool for better understanding the living heritage of indigenous communities and actions are being taken to improve the representation of those communities in the teaching curricula of the country.

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| **HAITI** | **US$98,970** | **Programme in support of the education system for the transmission of intangible cultural heritage (PASS-TPCI) (no. 01442)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 2.BUR 4.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.2)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 17/08/2018 - 30/06/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 17/08/2018 – 17/06/2019 (ongoing) | |

The overall objective of this project is to safeguard intangible cultural heritage through its inclusion in formal education, within the current reform of the secondary cycle in Haiti’s educational system. Implemented by the non-governmental organization Ref-Culture, the project aims to fill the lack of a formal program related to the transmission of heritage to younger generations. Based on a cooperation established between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), the project foresees the development of a comprehensive programme on cultural and artistic education focusing on intangible cultural heritage. It was structured around two broad areas: (i) consultation with community members and officials from the educational and cultural sectors to establish a steering committee for the project and (ii) the preparation of documents and didactic materials. From the first stage, a series of preparatory activities were carried out in forty schools across the West, Artibonite, North and South-East departments, taking into account the wide variety of Haiti’s educational system. Due to the current insecurity circumstances in the country, consultation had to focus on school principals; however, the possibility of welcoming tradition bearers into the schools at a later stage is still being considered. Out of the forty principals of the schools concerned, thirty-seven participated in the consultation meetings. In parallel, work on preparing the pedagogical documents has been achieved. The Educational Framework Programme for secondary schools has been produced, along with a detailed teacher programme and a manual for students based on monographs on the selected traditional knowledge and practices of the country. Two supporting documents are yet to be produced: a DVD on the monographs and a detailed programme on living heritage to be used across secondary schools. Even if the first phase of the project was not without difficulties, the objectives are being satisfactorily achieved and the teacher’s guide for cultural education should make it possible to train many more teachers than the forty initially envisaged as part of the project.

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| **KENYA** | **US$144,430** | **Safeguarding of Enkipaata, Eunoto and Olng’esherr, three male rites of passage of the Maasai community (no. 00888)** |
| *Granted:* | 2016 (Decision [11.COM 3.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/11.COM%203.BUR/4)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 17/02/2017 - 17/01/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 17/02/2017 – 22/02/2019 (ongoing) | |

Enkipaata, Eunoto and Olng’esherr are three interrelated male rites of passage of the Maasai community. Nowadays, however, numerous challenges threaten the viability of these practices. To address the situation, this project was aimed at enhancing the viability of the element to ensure its continued enactment and practice for posterity. During the project, the Department of Culture, in collaboration with representatives of the community and other stakeholders, undertook several activities. Despite delays due to the political environment in the country at the time, preliminary meetings were held with representatives from the nine clans of the Maasai community to equip them with general knowledge and skills required for safeguarding their living heritage within the framework of the Convention. Three workshops were then held on community-based inventorying for 150Maasai community members, drawn from each of the nine clans. The importance of community participation was emphasized throughout and the interface between intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development was also discussed. Other objectives included protecting the spaces connected with the enactment of the element, researching and documenting the living heritage of the Maasai community for future transmission, enhancing inventorying practices and educating young people on the importance of the element. Constant evaluation and monitoring of the milestones attained made it possible to correct failures and address challenges, and long-term plans include developing community cultural centres in Narok and Kajiado that would serve as focal points for the safeguarding of the element.

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| **KYRGYZSTAN** | **US$99,950** | **Safeguarding of practices and rare rituals related to sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan: preparation of an inventory and safeguarding measures (no. 01423)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 2.BUR 4.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%202.BUR/4.3)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 19/11/2018 -18/11/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 19/11/2018 – 15/05/2019 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by the Aigine Cultural Research Centre (CRC), this project is aimed at safeguarding practices and rituals related to sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan. Despite their integral role in Kyrgyz people’s traditional belief systems, such practices face significant challenges. For the past ten to twelve years, the Aigine CRC has been collecting nationwide data on sacred sites, pilgrimage and ritual practices, yet several gaps remain. To address this situation, this project is intended to produce a unified inventory and national manual on safeguarding elements of living heritage, and to raise awareness about pilgrimage practices and knowledge related to sacred sites. Several activities have been undertaken during Stage 1 of the project. For the preparation of an inventory on intangible cultural heritage related to sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan, the project team is in the process of gathering data for the National Inventory. The project team is also conducting meetings and preliminary discussions with national experts with a view to developing safeguarding measures in the form of a national manual for the elements related to the sacred sites and pilgrimage practices in question. Lastly, capacity-building training was provided to the stakeholders through a Training Workshop in February 2019 and a National Inventorying Workshop held in March 2019. The awareness-raising campaigns are already generating outcomes and the working group members have acquired solid theoretical knowledge that is being applied. Upon successful completion of the project, the unified inventory and national manual are planned to be introduced into formal and non-formal education in the country, serving as tangible teaching and learning tools.

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| **SENEGAL** | **US$99,889** | **Strengthening national capacities in the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in Senegal (no. 01431)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 1.BUR 3.6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/13.COM%201.BUR/3.6)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 25/07/2018 - 20/01/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 15/10/2018 – 09/09/2019 (ongoing) | |

Jointly developed by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa, this project is intended to respond to the needs identified during a pre-inventory campaign conducted from 2016 to 2017. With the overall objective of strengthening national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, it aims to support the ongoing national inventory through the development of a national inventorying strategy and safeguarding plans, develop local expertise, and test out a new approach involving the education system. At the mid-term, these objectives have generally been achieved. Fourteen directors of regional cultural centres, fourteen community representatives and four national focal points have been equipped with the tools needed to implement the Convention. They have developed a national inventorying strategy and received training on community-based inventorying. Twenty-five stakeholders have acquired notions for developing safeguarding plans through in-depth training. Thanks to the project, four actors involved in safeguarding living heritage in Senegal have become leading experts in this field at the national level and facilitated a workshop on participatory inventorying. A pilot experiment to introduce elements of living heritage into the curriculum has also been initiated; the plan is now to reach out to the education system more broadly, rather than a few isolated schools, by developing pedagogical modules on orality, storytelling and traditional games. Despite some setbacks, the programme has proceeded as planned. The training and safeguarded exercises have elicited real interest among the various actors involved and the project is expected to generate lasting results thanks to the focus on local capacity building and the inventorying strategy developed.

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| **SEYCHELLES** | **US$90,000** | **Strengthening capacity in Seychelles for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for sustainable development (no. 01158)** |
| *Granted:* | 2016 (Decision [11.COM 3.BUR 5.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/11.COM%203.BUR/5.3)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 17/02/2017 - 30/10/2018 | |
| *Reporting period* | 01/06/2017 – 30/10/2018 (finalized) | |

Implemented by the National Heritage Research and Protection Section, this project was designed to strengthen institutional and human capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in the three main islands of the Seychelles – Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. In parallel, it aims to reinforce the legal frameworks for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, particularly through its inclusion in the National Heritage Bill currently being developed. Over a fourteen-month period, the Department of Culture has worked closely with the administrations of twenty-five districts in the country to implement these activities, with the assistance of national and international experts in living heritage. Structured around four main components, the project has helped revitalize cultural heritage development in the Seychelles by creating an environment in which it can be better appreciated, practised and transmitted. The first activity was a workshop on the implementation of the Convention. The aim was to strengthen key stakeholders’ and community representatives’ capacities to implement the Convention, with a specific focus on the crucial links between living heritage and sustainable development. Secondly, stakeholders were involved in the drafting of a strategic document on safeguarding living heritage as a key contribution to the draft National Heritage Bill. A workshop on community-based inventorying was then held, followed by three pilot inventorying exercises lasting around one month. Finally, a three-day workshop was organized on preparing nomination files. The individuals trained during the workshops are expected to become the focal persons for safeguarding living heritage in their respective districts, and the trained individuals will have the capacity to train other members of their communities and raise awareness about the Convention.

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| **SUDAN** | **US$174,480** | **Documentation and inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of Sudan (a pilot project in Kordufan and Blue Nile regions) (no. 00978)** |
| *Granted:* | 2015 (Decision [10.COM 2.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%202.BUR/4)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 30/06/2016 - 31/12/2017 | |
| *Reporting period* | 02/2017 – 09/2018 (under closure) | |

The project was approved in principle by the Committee at its ninth session ([Decision 9.COM 9.c.2)](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/9.COM/9.c.2) on an exceptional basis, due to the special circumstances the submitting State was encountering at the time. At the same time, the Committee requested that the Secretariat work with the submitting State to revise the request in line with the recommendations of the Consultative Body within a period of six months and delegated the authority to its Bureau to examine the revised version. On the basis of the revised request, the Bureau approved the request in June 2015 ([Decision 10 COM 2.BUR 4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/10.COM%202.BUR/4)). Regrettably, the contract arrangements were significantly delayed at the beginning of the project, which was finally launched in August 2016 with an expected completion date of December 2017. A contract was then established with the Federal Ministry of Culture of Sudan for the period mentioned and a first instalment of US$104,688 (60 per cent of the total project amount) was transferred in early 2017.

This project was designed with two overarching goals. The first goal relates to the development of a National Strategy for the Documentation and Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sudan, for which an initial survey on the literature and elements of living heritage in the target states was carried out. Within the same scope, an evaluation workshop was held to assess the work of the preliminary survey; the participants included two individuals from each of the five target states. Finally, with a view to preparing the draft document of the National Strategy, two consultation meetings were held in April and May 2018. The second key goal of the project is to build the capacities of decision-makers and culture directors in the states concerned. To this end, a two-day workshop was held at Khartoum University in February 2018 to furnish decision-makers with information about the Convention, and a nine-day training workshop on preparing inventories was organized in June/July 2018 with experts and specialists. Since then, the project has experienced further delays, as explained in a Progress Report submitted by the State Party in November 2018. The delays were attributed to the restructuring of the ministry in charge of culture in the country and difficulties experienced in setting up an entity with a full mandate for the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat’s efforts to extend the contract proved in vain due to the lack of a timely response from the beneficiary country. Consequently, the contract expired on 31 December 2017. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is in contact with the beneficiary State to clarify the status of expenditure against the activities undertaken in order to move towards the administrative closure of the project in conformity with UNESCO’s financial regulations. Nonetheless, the future of national safeguarding efforts in Sudan should not be compromised by this unfortunate experience. Assuming that the contract will be closed in compliance with UNESCO’s financial regulations, the Secretariat proposes working closely with the national authorities of Sudan by providing technical assistance, to prepare another, smaller scale, International Assistance project in order to implement part of the activities that could not be initiated. This new project could be implemented through the provision of services from the UNESCO Field Office in Khartoum, so as to prevent the administrative risks from reoccurring and to closely accompany the Sudanese authorities and communities concerned in their safeguarding efforts.

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| **UGANDA** | **US$97,582** | **Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda (no. 01310)** |
| *Granted:* | 2017 (Decision [12.COM 1.BUR 2.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/12.COM%201.BUR/2.2)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 26/06/2017 - 30/06/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 26/06/2017 – 28/02/2019 (ongoing) | |

To address the low profile and visibility accorded to safeguarding the diverse intangible cultural heritage in Uganda, the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda is implementing a three-year project aimed at raising awareness among management and academic staff in four participating universities on the relevance of living heritage in the country’s development context. This first goal – to raise awareness of the relevance of living heritage within the departments concerned – has been partly achieved through meetings of the project committee and public lectures. The second objective is to produce a course outline on intangible cultural heritage for use by universities and other higher learning institutions. Despite the process being more time-consuming than expected, a stand-alone undergraduate course has been developed. Three information-sharing meetings were also held with the participating universities. The third objective – to train a core group of twenty academic staff from the four universities to deliver the course – is yet to be implemented, though an introductory training session has been held. This will be the focus of the next stage of the project, through a one-week training session for academic staff and the production of a resource book for academic staff involved in delivering the course. Despite some delays, the project has been generally very well-received by all the stakeholders concerned, who agree that the proposed course will fill a gap in the current landscape of tertiary education in the country. The project has been designed to be self-sustaining, as the course will ultimately be integrated into the ongoing academic programmes of the four universities concerned.

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| **UGANDA** | **US$232,120** | **Community-self documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with Empaako naming system in Uganda (no. 01210)** |
| *Granted:* | 2017 (Decision [12.COM 11.D.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM/11.D.2)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 23/02/2018 – 10/02/2020 | |
| *Reporting period* | 23/02/2018 – 28/01/2019 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by Engabu Za Tooro (Tooro Youth Platform for Action), this project contributes to the documentation and revitalization of ceremonies and practices associated with the Empaako naming system in Western Uganda. The general objectives of the project are to revitalize the performance of the ceremonies and practices associated with the naming system in the five communities concerned, and to enhance bearers’ capacities to transmit related knowledge, skills, meanings and social values to successive generations. Built on the concept of community self-documentation of living heritage, the project is being implemented by the communities themselves as the main drivers. The project has already achieved several positive results. Firstly, the communities’ capacity to document their intangible cultural heritage has been strengthened through information gathering and training on identifying elements of living heritage and collecting and processing related data. The availability and accessibility of related knowledge has been enhanced through workshops, data collection, clan meetings, radio talk shows and online platforms. Awareness about the meaning, social values and need to safeguard Empaako is being raised among bearers and stakeholders, leading to actions such as festivals and community events. Workshops have been held on documenting living heritage and five data collection missions (one per community) have been conducted. Furthermore, monthly clan meetings have been organized to mobilize practitioners to revitalize the observance of the practice, track the implementation of the activities and disseminate the results. The project is expected to have lasting results thanks to the desire and practice instilled among bearers to document their intangible cultural heritage with a view to transmitting it to successive generations.

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| **ZAMBIA** | **US$334,820** | **Strengthen the capacity for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in Zambia (no. 01281)** |
| *Granted:* | 2017 (Decision [12.COM 11.D.3](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/12.COM/11.D.3)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 02/04/2018 - 01/04/2021 | |
| *Reporting period* | 02/04/2018 – 31/05/2019 (ongoing) | |

In order to strengthen capacities to safeguard and manage intangible cultural heritage in Zambia, the main goal of this project is to develop and implement a bachelor’s degree programme in intangible cultural heritage, the first of its kind to be offered at the University of Zambia. Firstly, the project aims to improve the critical mass for the effective and sustainable implementation of the Convention within four years. To this end, a total of sixteen candidates were enrolled in the bachelor’s degree, out of twenty selected. The second key objective is to initiate critical thinking on intangible cultural heritage safeguarding among twenty practitioners in Zambia within three years of introducing the degree programme. A bachelor’s programme comprising eighteen courses has been approved and is now being implemented. Thirdly, the project aims to provide a niche for critical research in the field of living heritage in Zambia within three years; this objective will be assessed at the end of the students’ third year of study. Despite some challenges, such as negative publicity in the initial stages and difficulties in coordinating team members in different departments, the project has achieved positive results. The degree programme is expected to raise the level of engagement in the field of cultural heritage. Equally, as one of the first programmes of its kind to be offered at undergraduate level in Africa, prospects to attract enrolments from outside Zambia are high.

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| **ZIMBABWE** | **US$98,927** | **Enhancing the capacity of communities to safeguard traditional dance expressions as performing arts heritage in western Zimbabwe (no. 01304)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 1.BUR 3.2](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.2)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 19/07/2018 - 31/12/2019 | |
| *Reporting period* | 19/07/2018 – 03/04/2019 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by the Nhimbe Trust, this project is aimed at enhancing communities’ capacities to safeguard traditional dance expressions as performing arts heritage in western Zimbabwe. The project is implemented in six communities in the following areas of expertise: awareness and knowledge of the Convention; the capacity to undertake community-based inventorying of elements associated with traditional dance; and the capacity to facilitate the intergenerational transmission of their performing arts heritage. A two-day training workshop was held with twelve cultural stakeholders from six communities, as well as five other from partner organizations, to equip them with knowledge of the Convention and its implementation.. A three-day capacity-building workshop has also been organized with the same group of cultural stakeholders to equip them with the skills to elaborate community-based inventorying of elements of their performing arts heritage. It. Several activities remain to be achieved. These include a five-day community-based inventorying process to implement safeguarding measures and a four-day field visit and consultative meeting in each of the six communities concerned. Community involvement has been vital to the success of the project. Sharing with other partners the documentation recorded, the inventory registers and the online portal on performing arts heritage is expected to provide a basis for new initiatives and contribute to the national programme to safeguard living heritage.

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| **ZIMBABWE** | **US$93,243** | **Inventorying oral traditions, expressions, local knowledge and practices of the Korekore of Hurungwe district in Zimbabwe (no. 01312)** |
| *Granted:* | 2018 (Decision [13.COM 1.BUR 3.4](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/13.COM%201.BUR/3.4)) | |
| *Implementation period:* | 19/07/2018 - 09/07/2021 | |
| *Reporting period* | 19/07/2018 – 09/07/2021 (ongoing) | |

Implemented by Chinhoyi University of Technology, this project is aimed at inventorying oral traditions, expressions, local knowledge and practices of the Korekore of Hurungwe District in north-west Zimbabwe. The first objective is to raise awareness among twenty traditional leaders and thirty selected community members on the Convention. This has been successfully achieved, and more people have been trained. The Convention has also been translated into the local language of the community, which is currently being edited. The second key objective is to build and enhance a framework for engaging community members – including women and youth – to create a platform to ensure the sustainability of the inventorying activities. Community participation has been secured and elements have been identified. Thirdly, thirty community members and twenty university staff have been equipped with skills in the community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage. A comprehensive inventory of the oral traditions, expressions, local knowledge and practices of the Hurunwge District is yet to be implemented and a community action plan for intangible cultural heritage safeguarding activities in the district will be worked on at a later stage. Zimbabwe is currently facing some political and economic challenges, which have affected the timetabling of the project activities. They have otherwise not impacted the implementation of the project. Active community participation has been secured throughout, as attested by the fact that the communities themselves selected the elements to be identified. The awareness-raising activities and training of trainers are expected to ensure the continuation of the inventorying activities after the project is concluded.

1. . Projects considered as ‘active’ are unterminated projects supported by International Assistance that have been approved by the Committee or its Bureau. This includes projects approved but not yet materialized in a contract and projects pending the administrative closure of the contract, which was delayed and concluded on a date later than 1 July 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . As provided by Article 21 (a) to (f), which do not limit the implementation of the International Assistance mechanism to the provision of financial grants as described in Article 21 (g). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Change of ceiling as per General Assembly [Resolution 6.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/resolutions/6.GA/7?dec=resolutions&ref_decision=6.GA). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . As at 30 June 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. . The International Assistance requests for which the Committee had delegated the authority to the Bureau to take an appropriate decision on referred requests were not taken into account. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)