**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**

**General Information**

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2. **FOURTEENTH SESSION**

The Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will be held in Bogotá, Colombia, at the Agora Bogotá Convention Center from **9 to 14 December 2019**, hosted by the Republic of Colombia.

**Address:** Carrera 24 # 38 - 47 Bogotá, Colombia

**Tel:** +57 (1) 381 00 00 Ext: 5902

**Website:** [*https://agora-bogota.com*](https://agora-bogota.com)

All the relevant information is also available at the following address: [*h**ttps://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM*/](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/). This document was prepared by the host country.

**The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** consists of twenty-four representatives of States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is:

Group I, North America and Western Europe: Austria, Cyprus, The Netherlands.

Group II, Eastern Europe: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Poland.

Group III, Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica.

Group IV, Asia and the Pacific: China, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka.

Group V (a), Africa: Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritius, Senegal, Togo, Zambia.

Group V (b), Arab States: Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine.

The elected members ([Decision 13.COM 19](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/13.COM/19)) of the **Bureau of the Fourteenth session of the Committee** are:

Chairperson:

**Ms. María Claudia López**

*Secretary of Culture, Recreation and Sport of Bogotá*  
Colombia.

Vice-Chairs:   
**Austria, Poland, Philippines, Zambia, Palestine**

Rapporteur:  
**Mr. Jankee, Bernard**   
Jamaica.

The working languages are English and French.

1. **HOST COUNTRY CONTACTS**

* **General information (not for visa issues)**

Email: [*host14com@gmail.com*](mailto:host14com@gmail.com)

* **For Visa issues**

**Colombian National Commission for UNESCO**

Email: [*comisionunesco@cancilleria.gov.co*](mailto:comisionunesco@cancilleria.gov.co)

Tel: (+571) 3814000, ext. 1309

Bogotá D.C., Colombia

* **Colombian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**

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* **Daniela Rodríguez**

First Secretary

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* **Valentina Velásquez**

Administrative Assistant

Tel: (+33) (1) 45 68 28 71

1. **REGISTRATION**

The main participants in the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee are the twenty-four members of the Committee. All participants, delegates, observers and those wishing to attend the Fourteenth session of the Committee are strongly advised to register **no later than 29 October 2019**. This is to allow the organizers sufficient time to process all the relevant information and to ensure that all the logistical arrangements are in place before the opening of the Session.

Please **register online** on the website of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee:

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/)

If you are not able to register online, please use the registration form in **Annex A** and return it by email to:

[*ichmeetings@unesco.org*](mailto:ichmeetings@unesco.org)

All registered participants, delegates and observers are requested to inform the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section of any subsequent changes to their travel arrangements. This will ensure that your arrangements can proceed smoothly.

You must make your own arrangements for any unscheduled return.

1. **ACCOMMODATION**

**Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and for all expenses during their stay in Colombia**. It is strongly recommended that all participants book their own accommodation by **15 October 2019**.

A list of designated hotels is available at the end of this document (Annex C). Please note that **shuttle services** will be provided to participants from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport **only to and from these designated hotels**. The host country will post the shuttle services schedules on

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/)

The host country offers a special shuttle service to the heads of Committee members’ delegations. Please advise times of arrival and departure to: [*host14com@gmail.com*](mailto:colombia14com@gmail.com)

1. **PASSPORTS, VISAS AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION**

See Annex B for the list of nationalities that do not require a Visa for short stays to enter the Republic of Colombia.

Access the following link to **consult the nationalities that do require a visa for short stays** to enter the Republic of Colombia:

In English:

[*https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures\_services/visa/requirements*](https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visa/requirements)

In Spanish:

[*https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites\_servicios/visa/requisitos*](https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa/requisitos)

Consult the displaying in the middle of the page under the gray title "Do I need a visa? Requirements". In the field “Trip purpose” please select “**Tourism/Event participation**”.

**5.1 Courtesy Visa (Type V)**

All participants belonging to official delegations that represent either a member or an observer State, may request a **Courtesy Visa (Type V)** to enter the Republic of Colombia. This applies also to the official delegates of the NGOs accredited to UNESCO. Please note that Press representatives must request a **Visitor’s Visa (Type V)**.

If you need a **Courtesy Visa**, you must present an official letter from your government acknowledging you are part of the official Delegation. If you belong to an NGO, you must present a letter signed by the President of the Organization, certifying that you are part of the official delegation. If you are unable to obtain this letter, you must present an invitation letter issued by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention of UNESCO.

### 5.1.1 Documents required to apply for a Courtesy Visa

* A scanned copy of the main page of your passport, valid for at least six months from the day of your arrival in the Republic of Colombia;
* A copy of the letter issued by your Government or the President of your Organization, certifying that you are a member of the official delegation, or the invitation letter issued by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention of UNESCO;
* A colour photograph, size 3x4cm, white background, .JPG format and with a maximum size of 300 KB.

**Important Notes:**

* The Republic of Colombia **does not offer the facility of issuing an On-Arrival Visa**.
* If you are travelling to the Republic of Colombia via other countries, please familiarize yourself with the transit requirements of those countries before your trip.
* You will need at least 15 minutes to fill out the Courtesy Visa application form. Please have everything you need for it to hand.
* Documents must be in .PDF format.
* Do not use photographs and avoid converting image files to PDF format.
* You must attach all supporting documents required for your visa, or your application will not be accepted.
* The picture must be frontal and the head should be centered and complete. Both eyes should be open and the ears should be visible. Do not allow hair or accessories to cover your face.

### 5.1.2 Steps to apply for a Courtesy Visa

Please read all the information before beginning the application:

1. Enter: <https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/solicitarVisa.xhtml>
2. Complete all data required.
3. The kind of visa you will be applying to is “Visitor”, the specific activity “Courtesy” and condition “Others”.
4. When given the opportunity to choose where to submit your application, please make sure to choose **Bogotá**. Please do not choose the consulate abroad.
5. When entering “institution”, please write “**14 COM UNESCO**”.
6. In the "specify" field, please write the name of your Delegation.
7. After completing the information, you must complete the payment option. Your visa will be free of charge, but the system will accept your application only if you complete the payment option. Otherwise, the system will not register the application and therefore, you will not obtain a visa.
8. Finally, **please make sure to include in your application a valid e-mail address** to **receive the electronic visa**. There is no need to present this visa stamped on your passport when you enter the Republic of Colombia: you need only to present the e-visa received by e-mail, either in print or online format.

**5.1.3 Press Representatives**

**Press repre**sentatives in this event should apply for **Visitor Visa -Type V (not a Courtesy Visa).**

To do so, please consult the requirements at the following link:

[*https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures\_services/visa/v-journalistic-coverage*](https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visa/v-journalistic-coverage)

under the grey title “V-JOURNALISTIC COVERAGE”.

Finally, **to request a Visitor Visa - Type V**, please apply through the link:

[*https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/solicitarVisa.xhtml*](https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/solicitarVisa.xhtml)

and when given the opportunity to choose where to submit your application, **please make sure to choose Bogotá**.

### 5.1.4 Contact point

For further information, or any additional concern regarding visa requirements to enter the Republic of Colombia, please contact the **Colombian National Commission for UNESCO**:

[*comisionunesco@cancilleria.gov.co*](mailto:comisionunesco@cancilleria.gov.co)

**5.2 Customs in the Republic of Colombia**

While it is not illegal to carry large sums of cash when you enter the Republic of Colombia, you must declare any amount above US$10,000 and keep all receipts of currency exchanges while you are in this country. Please ask for the appropriate in-flight declaration forms or ask an immigration officer after landing.

**5.3 Medical insurance and services**

First-aid services will be provided at the meeting venue. Directions to the first-aid room can be obtained from the reception. However, **you are expected to assume responsibility for the medical costs of other treatment received while in the Republic of Colombia**. It is strongly recommended that you purchase medical insurance in your home country to cover medical costs while in the Republic of Colombia or in transit.

It is important to be aware of potential risks when travelling. The most common illnesses in Colombia are acute altitude sickness, stomach problems, and in jungle areas malaria and yellow fever.

**Vaccination**

You must be vaccinated against **yellow fever** at least 10 days before the departure to jungle areas.

**Medical care and purchase of medicines**

Those wishing to visit Colombia should buy travel insurance to cover medical and emergency hospital care. Medication and prescription drugs can be obtained without restriction in drugstores and pharmacies. You should check that the package has the date of expiry and price printed on it.

**Water**

Tap water is safe to drink and use for cooking in Bogota. Other major cities have very good water supply services, with water that can be used for the bath or shower. In small towns and rural areas, it is advisable to buy bottled water or water produced in treatment plants.[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Altitude Sickness**

It is also important to be aware of a situation that might happen as a consequence of flying to high altitudes. Altitude sickness, locally known as “*Soroche*”, is caused by hypoxia or lack of oxygen in the body due to the lower atmospheric pressures encountered in the places with higher altitudes above sea level, such as Bogotá. The symptoms of *Soroche* may vary depending on the physical condition of the individual: on some people they may not appear at all, but on others, altitude sickness takes effect as soon as the passenger has disembarked.

The main symptoms are dizziness, headache, fatigue and physical exhaustion, and digestive disorders. The following are recommendations that might help to deal with altitude sickness:

* Acclimatize: Do not engage in activities that include physical effort the first day of arrival.
* Avoid eating heavy foods.
* Take pills for altitude sickness: they are very effective and can be bought without a prescription.
* Drink lots of water or other fluids during the trip.
* Drink coca tea or eat coca candy: the leaves have medical benefits that may help to treat altitude sickness.

**5.4 Weather forecast at the time of the event**

Taking into account that the event is going to take place in December, the temperature will be 19°C (66oF) during the day and 10°C (50oF) at night, and although it is not a rainy season, the weather might change dramatically in the course of the day. So, it is important to bring clothing for both warm and cool weather. It will be appropriate to bring a good raincoat and comfortable shoes: and a good collapsible umbrella. Berets or caps are a good option for the cooler nights, too.

**5.5 Travelling to and from Bogotá**

El Dorado airport, Bogotá, is recognized as the Best Airport in South America by the World Airport Awards 2017 and is one of the 23 four-star airports in the world.

Colombia is at the heart of Latin America. The capital Bogotá D.C. is five hours from New York, five hours from Buenos Aires, three hours from Lima and ten hours from London by direct flight. Bogotá is an outstandingly accessible destination for visitors from all over the world.

**A welcome desk for 14COM participants will be set up at Dorado airport of Bogotá from 6 December to 10 December and from 14 December to 16 December 2019 to assist arriving and departing participants.**

If a taxi service is needed from the airport, it is important to take an “Imperial Taxi", since this is the company officially authorized to assist participants in the event. These taxis can be found at the exit of the airport, where it is easy to spot the Coordinator. The fare is about US$6 from the airport to the venue center zone.

El Dorado airport offers services such as ATMs and currency exchange, first aid and police assistance, all of them available round the clock.

There are international airports in other cities: Alfonso Bonilla Aragón airport (Palmira – Cali), Rafael Nuñez airport (Cartagena), Ernesto Cortissoz airport (Soledad – Barranquilla), Gustavo Rojas Pinilla airport (San Andrés Island), Palonegro airport (Lebrija – Bucaramanga), Matecaña airport (Pereira), El Edén airport (Armenia), Olaya Herrera Airport (Medellín) and José María Córdova (Rionegro).

There are direct flights from Europe to Bogotá, with an average flying time as shown below.

* Barcelona: 11 h
* Madrid: 10 h
* London: 11 h 10m
* Munich: 12 h
* Frankfurt: 11 h 29m
* Paris: 10 h 35m

The list below is the average travel time from some other cities and countries:

* Austria: 14 h 49m - one stop
* Cyprus: 48h 30m – two stops
* Netherlands: 20h 25 m – two stops
* Armenia: 35h 30m – two stops
* Azerbaijan: 39h 58m – two stops
* Poland: 16h 10m – one stop
* Beijing: 38h 30m- two stops
* Tokyo: 26h 20m – one stop
* Kazakhstan: 38h – two stops
* Philippines: 27h 45m – two stops
* Cameroon: 26h 40m – one stop
* Djibouti: 48h 58m – two stops
* Mauritius: 44h 45m – two stops
* Senegal: 27h 45m – one stop
* Togo: 31h 10 m – one stop
* Zambia: 44h – two stops
* Kuwait: 36 h 30m – two stops
* Lebanon: 19h 45m – one stop
* Palestine: 19h – one stop

**5.6 Security**

Millions of tourists from around the world have recently shown increasing interest in Colombia´s colorful landscapes and charming cities. According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Colombia received 8% more of foreign visitors in 2018 in comparison to the previous year. In fact, according to official statistics published by Colombia Country Brand (Colombia Marca País) in its website,

([*https://www.colombia.co/pais-colombia/como-estan-las-condiciones-de-seguridad-en-colombia/*](https://www.colombia.co/pais-colombia/como-estan-las-condiciones-de-seguridad-en-colombia/)),

4.2 million tourists visited Colombia in 2018. This clearly shows that the security conditions throughout the country have improved, and, as a result, the international perception of Colombia as an important tourist destination has also improved.

1. **OFFICIAL LOCAL TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee Organizers will make transportation arrangements available for participants from the airport to the designated hotels (indicated in Annex C) and vice versa.

Please note that **shuttle services** will be provided to participants from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport **only to and from these designated hotels**. The host country will post the timetable of shuttle services on

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM*/](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/).

Participants who are **not** staying at the officially designated hotels will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the airport.

The host country offers a special shuttle service to the Head of the Committee Members’ delegation. Please advise the time of arrival and departure to: [*host14com@gmail.com*](mailto:host14com@gmail.com)

Most of the recommended hotels are about a five-minute walk from the venue.

Taxis are available 24 hours, We recommend that you call the taxi by phone or app. *Easy Tappsi* is the most commonly used company; the app can be downloaded in AppStore and Google Play. Phone: (+571) 5520022. However, you can always ask the staff at your hotel to call a taxi from a reliable company.

Taking a taxi in Bogotá is not expensive. As a matter of fact, a taxi ride from the Venue center to the historic center of Bogotá can cost about US$5 (or around Col$16,000), to the "Pink Zone" in the north of the city, also US$5, and to the airport around US$6 USD (around Col$20,000).

1. **VENUE AND SESSIONS**

**7.1 The venue**

The venue isAgora Bogotá: Convention Center

Agora is the result of a public-private alliance, led by the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, the exhibition center *Corferias,* the Colombian Government (Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism), and the State tourism fund FONTUR. They joined forces and resources to strengthen and consolidate the events industry by building the infrastructure needed for conventions, congresses, tradeshows and public events. It has also had a major impact on the transformation of the local environment, the promotion of business, competitiveness and generation of employment for the city and its surrounding region.

The Convention Center has an area of 64,883 m2 distributed over five floors, a main hall of 3,100 m2 with capacity for 4,000; and a further 10 rooms that can be divided into 18 meeting spaces with capacities between 100 - 2,000. Among other facilities for attendees, Agora has 1,055 parking spaces, 19 elevators, 12 escalators, 4 kitchens, 3 independent registration areas, 4 VIP areas, 4 terraces and 4 lobby areas distributed throughout the building.

Agora is the only Convention Center in Latin America with an integrated exhibition center -  *Corferias* - which means that it can complement its offer to meet the global trend of convergence between Fairs, Congresses and Conventions. It is the only Convention Center in Colombia that acts as a Free Zone, giving it a competitive advantage in its offer of services. This was the reason for awarding Agora the World Travel Prize 2019.

Corferias (International Center for Business and Fairs of Bogotá) is more than just an exhibition center: it is a private-law corporation whose stated business is to encourage the industrial, social, cultural and commercial development of the Andean, Caribbean and Centro American Region, led by its main shareholder, the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce.

For an overview of the venue, please visit the website:

[*https://agora-bogota.com/*](https://agora-bogota.com/)

**7.2 Official Sessions**

The **Committee Sessions** will be held daily from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. from 9 to 14 December 2019. For further details of the work program please refer to the provisional agenda, which can be retrieved from the UNESCO Secretariat’s website at:

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/)

**7.3 Side-Events**

Each and every one of the Side Events included in the agenda is endorsed by UNESCO. The host country will provide spaces in Agora for the development of these Side Events which will not take place in parallel to the plenary sessions. Each space provided will have a minimum technical and logistic capacity installed (audiovisual equipment, chairs and tables, sound insulation). Applications accompanied by their requirements must be sent to UNESCO no later than November 15.

The delegation responsible for setting up a parallel event should make arrangements for any additional services they need.

Please note that alcoholic beverages may not be offered on Agora premises.

**7.4 Interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the following working languages of the Committee, namely English, French, and Spanish.

**7.5 Documentation**

For environmental reasons and in order to reduce costs, printed copies of the documents will only be provided on request. All the documents for the Fourteenth Session can be downloaded from [*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/). Participants are advised to bring their laptops to meetings if they want to consult the relevant working documents. There will be power outlets for computers.

**7.6 Meeting registration and information desk**

A registration and information desk will be set up at the Agora Bogotá (Venue Center) **between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. from 8 to 13 December 2019, and between 8.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. 14 December 2019**. Every participant, delegate and observer **must register prior to the beginning of the Session** on the following website:

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM*/](https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/)

An information package on the meeting will be available at that time.

**7.7 Security badges**

Badges will be issued to participants, delegates and observers at the registration and information desk. Participants must wear the badges at all times when entering the venue.

**7.8 Participants’ lounge**

A space will be available to serve as a lounge for participants during the Session. **A number of computers with internet access and printing facilities will be provided**. Technical staff will be on hand to assist participants.

**7.9 Conference venue**

A **free Wi-Fi** connection is available at the venue. The log-in information will be provided.

**7.10 Meals**

A continuous refreshment/coffee service will be available at the conference venue. Lunch will also be offered there at a reasonable price.

1. **MEDIA**

**8.1 Media center**

A media center will be provided for the Press to cover the Fourteenth Session. The Press will also have internet access and a fax machine.

**8.2 Press Conference room**

A Press Conference room will be provided. Details will be communicated in due course. **Only registered media will have access to this room**. The schedule outlining Press events will be available upon registration.

**8.3 Press releases**

People will be recorded and photographed during the event. With their participation and registration participants authorize the use of their image. It will be used for communication and diffusion purposes of the event.

1. **OPENING EVENT AND RELATED EVENTS**

Registered participants, delegates and observers will be invited on **9th December 2019** to the **opening ceremony**, whose reception will be held on the third floor lobby of Agora Bogota Convention Center (Carrera 24 No. 38 - 47) from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. The ceremony itself will take place at Corferias Auditorium (Av. Esperanza Entrance) from 7:00 to 8:45 pm. The event, which includes a guided walking tour, also features a sample of cultural elements in the list of Colombian Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**The closing ceremony** will be held on **14th December 2019**, at the Plaza de Bolívar with the presentation of the Christmas show from Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, whose main topic will be Colombian Intangible Cultural Heritage. For both events, **Venue center buses will be available** from the venue to the ceremony and back. Schedules will be posted on :

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/12COM/.)

**INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS FAIR “EXPOARTESANIAS 2019”**

At the same time as the Committee Sessions, Corferias will be holding its International Crafts Fair *“****Expoartesanías 2019****”* from **4 to 17 of December**. Expoartesanías is the most important thematic fair of its kind in Latin America, with over 29 years of experience and almost 80,000 visitors each year. It offers great commercial opportunities, and superb multicultural content. Delegates and all those attending the Committee will be able to enter the Exhibition Center for free.

Other events and programs, such as side-events, will be posted on the webpage of the Convention:

[*https://ich.unesco.org/en/14COM/*](https://ich.unesco.org/en/12COM/.)

1. **COUNTRY INFORMATION**

**10.1 Colombia**

*“There's a place where kindness, joy, diversity, flavor and music come together to make people vibrate, that place is Colombia. Come and feel the rhythm!”* [*http://www.colombia.travel/en*](http://www.colombia.travel/en)

Colombia is a beautiful tropical country full of amazing landscapes and home to a friendly and hard-working people (45.5 million of us), with time-honored cultural traditions marking the different regions we come from.

It is a country with an area of 1,142,748 Km2, located in the north west of South America and with coastlines on both the Pacific and the Atlantic. The capital city is Bogotá, D.C. Colombia is crossed from north to south by the Andes mountains that split into three large branches in the south and shape the geographical regions of this country. The Caribbean coast, composed of mangroves, rivers, wetlands and spectacular beaches, surround a remarkable mountain – the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The Pacific coast is home to a rainforest with one of the greatest numbers of species per square kilometer in the world, and hosts the densest biodiversity in the country. The Amazon Region - “The lung of the world -, is known for its vast rain forest and the exotic animals that live there: pink dolphins, manatees, jaguars, pumas, sloths and alligators. In contrast, the Andean Region is characterized by its mild weather and as the home of the condor, the national bird of Colombia; and the Orinoco basin is a huge expanse of flatlands.

Colombian territory also includes some continental elements, such as the islands of Gorgona and Gorgonilla, in the Pacific Ocean; and there are ocean territories, such as the archipelago of San Andrés and Providencia, with their remarkable marine landscapes and ecosystems. All in all, Colombia is a place full of surprises as you might expect from a country where there are large numbers of ethnic and indigenous groups which, to this day, still preserve not only their culture, customs, and language, but also their great wealth of flora and fauna.

If you would like further details of tourism, please visit:

[*http://www.colombia.travel/en*](http://www.colombia.travel/en)

[*https://www.colombia.co/en*](https://www.colombia.co/en)

**10.2 Government structure**

In the words of its 1991 Constitution, Colombia is ”a social State of law, organized as a “unitary democratic, decentralized Republic with Autonomy of its territorial entities, participatory and pluralist, founded on respect for human dignity, work and solidarity of those who form it and the prevalence of the general interest.”

There are three branches of public power: The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The Executive is headed by the President, with a cabinet of ministers.

The President of Colombia, since August 2018, is Iván Duque-Márquez.

**10.3 Geography and climate**

The country is famous for the diversity of its climates, which include high plateaus, low plains, tropical rainforests, deserts, and mountain ranges. Since Colombia is located on the equatorial zone, there are no seasons, but the weather depends on thermal floors, or temperature zones, whose five categories include: a) The warm zone which lies between sea level and 1,000 meters above sea level, with temperatures over 24°C, and seasons of heavy rainfall, typical of tropical plains. b) The temperate zone, at 1,000 - 2,000 meters, where average temperature can drop to between 17°C and 22°C. c) The cold zone, at 2,000 - 3,000 meters, where the temperature varies from 10°C to 17°C, (Bogotá is an example). d) The *páramo* or high-mountain zone, at 3,000 - 4,000 meters, and temperatures can fall below 10°C. d) “The glacier zone”, at 4,000 meters and above, the highest part of the Andes.

**10.4 Languages**

Spanish is Colombia’s official language. The official 2005 Census identified 68 indigenous languages, spoken in communities that total some 850,000 people. These languages belong to three groups: the first corresponds to the Creole dialects spoken on the Caribbean mainland by the Raizal and Palenquero communities. The second group corresponds to the Indo-European languages which hold the Romanés or Shib Romaní, and their variants spoken by the Rom or Gypsy population; and the third group corresponds to the Indo-American or indigenous languages as such.

**10.5 Fauna and flora**

The native flora and fauna of Colombia are as varied as its topography. Colombian territory provides very favorable conditions to house a variety of ecosystems, which in turn, contribute to the presence of a large number of species of flora, to date numbering 45,000 – 55,000 species of plants. In particular, there is a remarkable variety of orchids, and as many as 50 species of carnivorous plants.

Mangroves and coconut trees grow along the Caribbean coast, and 51 million hectares of protected forests. These forests contain commercially profitable trees such as mahogany, rosewood, oak, walnut, cedar and pine. Tropical plants and trees also provide the raw materials for rubber chewing gum and gum copal, and a huge range of foodstuffs including quinoa, vanilla, ginger and beans, amongst many other natural products.

As for the wildlife, Colombia is the habitat of a great variety of mammals, such as jaguar, puma, tapir, peccary, anteater, sloth, armadillo and various species of monkeys and deer. Birds are another gift of Nature, with the largest number of species anywhere in the world – 1,876 at the latest count. The giant Andean Condor is the national bird; and more easily accessible species include the toucan, parrot and cockatoo; crane, stork and hummingbird. There are also many species of butterflies and amphibians - alligators, lizards, turtles and snakes – all part of the marvels of Colombian fauna.

**10.6 The capital Bogotá**

Bogotá is the capital of Colombia and is the main business center of the country. It has a population of around 7,150,000.

Because of its altitude, Bogotá has a mountain climate; due to its low latitude it has a low thermal oscillation throughout the year. The temperatures regularly oscillate between 5°C and 19° C, with an annual average of 13° C.

Bogotá is strategically located at the center of the continent and in the center of Colombia, it lies in the high plateau of the Departments of Cundinamarca-Boyacá on the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes. It is the third highest capital in South America, at 2,625 meters (8,600 ft.) above sea level.

**Places to visit**

In the city: Botero Museum, Gold Museum, Simón Bolivar Park, Usáquen, Monserrate (funicular/ cablecar). La Candelaria Historic Center.

In the area: The Salt Cathedral, ZIpaquira (49km), Guatavita/Lake of El Dorado (73km) Chingaza Nature Park (277km).

The mass transit system is the Transmilenio bus network and its feeder routes. The main routes cover 112km with a fleet of over 2,000 buses, the TransMilenio System has 12 lines and approximately 147 stations. Services run from 5.00 a.m. until 11.00 p.m. It works with a frequent user card ‘*Tu llave*’, rechargeable at Transmilenio stations interconnecting with other bus services in the SITP system.

Street addresses in Bogotá are based on rectangular grid of *Calles* (*Calle 1* is in the center of the city, and the count rises as you go northwards) and *Carreras (Carrera* 1 is close to the mountains and the count rises as you go westwards). When a Calle angles away from the grid, it is called a *Diagonal*; and when a Carrera does so, it is called a *Transversal.*

**Security and social etiquette tips**

As in every big city, you should not carry around large sums of cash, jewelry or other valuables. Be alert especially in crowded, lonely or dark places.

**T****axis**

Bogotá has a good “yellow cab” type taxi service. Taxis can be taken in the street, but for extra safety, we recommend phoning for the service, especially at night. When phoning, ask for the ID number of the car, and check it when the car arrives. Taxis display a card with the ID of the driver and the vehicle, and a fare table.

There are extra charges for service after 8.00 p.m., all day on Sundays and holidays and for airport transfers. Several companies provide phone-in or mobile-app door-to-door service, such as Easy Taxi, TaxExpress and Taxis Libres; and the Special Land Transportation Association *www.acoltes.org*.

A mobile app such as the popular Easy tappsi can be downloaded in AppStore and Google Play. Or phone: (+571) 5520022.

**Nightlife**

***La Candelaria and Monserrate***

The centre of Bogotá, La Candelaria complements its historical and architectural heritage with some great opportunities to enjoy an evening out. Traditional places that have been serving generations of *Bogotanos,* side-by-side with innovative offers of the latest international trends: they line the steep cobbled streets with the promise of something appetizing for every kind of taste. Here and there too are places where music and dancing are the main fare. A night in La Candelaria can also be combined with a play, a concert or an opera, at the Colon Theater or the Luis Angel Arango Concert Hall. A few blocks away is the cable-car and funicular station to go up Monserrate. You can sample some popular local dishes in the "fritanguerías" near the station; or dine more formally in the restaurants at the top, with a stunning night view of this great city.

**Usaquén**

Usaquén is in north Bogotá, between *Calles* 114 and 121, and *Carreras* 5 and 7 (numbered from east to west). It has an important cultural and gastronomic offer in an environment that combines architecture from several periods of Bogotá's history. Nearby, we ﬁnd Hacienda Santa Barbara, once a fine farmhouse in the grand style, now a shopping mall, with a large choice of good restaurants for local fare, international cuisine and some interesting original proposals.

**Parque 93**

A green area located between *Calles* 93A and 93B St and *Carreras* 11A and 13. The park is surrounded by restaurants, cafés and bars, with a rich mixture of ﬂavors and innovation. At night, there is dancing and music all around you; live music too, for every audience, from families out in the park itself to the younger fast-food crowd, or the executive à la carte diner. Groups of friends gather in the park to chat: there are traveling exhibitions, design fairs and art shows. And there are special events for seasonal celebrations, such as Christmas concerts.

**Zona-T Zone and Zona Rosa**

This is perhaps the liveliest place for nightlife, as well as being a good place to eat out. Not so long ago, these two areas were traditional residential neighborhoods, but are today a busy district of restaurants and nightclubs surrounding some very modern shopping malls. Many of the streets are pedestrian-only, making it easy to get to a good restaurant or find a place to enjoy a good craft beer or cocktail. The Zona-T is formed by the intersection of *Carrera* 12A and *Calle* 83, at the center of an area surrounded by brick buildings and the stores of local and international goods in the nearby shopping centers. There are also some art galleries and haute-couture shops, many of prestigious Colombian designers.

**Zona G**

Zona G is very close to the ﬁnancial center of Bogotá, perfect for trying traditional and innovative dishes in cozy spaces. Located between *Carreras* 4 and 7, and *Calles* 69 and 72, it is in a natural position for its mixture of sophisticated establishments, with their tempered glass and polished surfaces, and older-style, simpler places that have adapted to the style of the elegant houses which were once the hallmark of this part of the city. Dishes from the sea, dishes from Peru, dishes from Italy … or just a hamburger. This is the fare of the people who live in the homes or work in the offices there. To top off your meal, look for a delicious dessert or custom-made chocolates, and browse in one of the local bookstores, on the way to the hotel.

**Quinta Camacho**

The Tudor style of the houses, the exposed brick, the fine gabled roofs, are worth a moment´s pause even if you are in a hurry. This neighborhood runs from *Calles* 67 to 72, and between *Carrera* 7 and Avenida Caracas. It is today home to office buildings, universities, drama schools and restaurants. The specialties here are the Italian, Argentine and Asian restaurants, and some specialist health-food offers (such as quinoa, chia seeds and nuts). Near the top at *Carrera 7*, there are some art galleries with excellent exhibitions of works by Colombian artists; a good mix of fine food and fine art.

**La Macarena**

La Macarena is a “bohemian” neighborhood, home to many of Bogotá´s best artists. Small and charming restaurants, full of seductive aromas and unique ﬂavors. It is close to the National Museum, Independence Park, the Planetarium and the bull-ring, between *Calle* 26B and 31 and *Carreras* 3 and 7. Here, you will ﬁnd restaurants with covered terraces with a varied international and local offer. Some places offer live music in the evenings, suitable for dancing and more lively enjoyment. On one side of La Macarena there is Bosque Izquierdo, a prosperous residential district, and on the other, La Perseverancia, a rather depressed area. Yes, Bogotá is a city of contrasts!

**For more information about tourism in Bogotá, you can visit**

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/default/files/Guia%205%20Circuitos%20Tem%C3%A1ticos.pdf>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/default/files/Guia%20de%20Museos.pdf>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/default/files/Gui%C3%B3n%20La%20Perseverancia.pdf>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/default/files/Gui%C3%B3n%20Sabores%20y%20Frutos%20de%20la%20Tierra.pdf>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/default/files/Gu%C3%ADa%20Gastron%C3%B3mica%20de%20Bogot%C3%A1.pdf>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/publicaciones-turismo-urbano>*

* *<http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/sites/all/themes/turismov2/BibliotecaDocumentosProductos/Naturaleza/Fauna%20y%20Flora%20Cerros%20Orientales.pdf>*

**Other links and Apps**

* www.dcenvivo.gov.co
* www.goguiadelocio.com.co
* www.cívico.com
* www.revistadc.com

**10.7 Currency**

The official currency is the Colombian Peso (COP). The market reference rate for the US dollar at the date of writing was US$1 = COP3,217.65: but the rate varies from day to day and it is important to keep up with changes to ensure that you are being given the right rate.

You can also pay by credit card in many places. Currency exchange services are available at some hotels, banks (Black Tower Hotel, near the venue), airports and in exchange bureaus. Cambios Kapital (Carrera. 40 No. 22A – 95), near the venue of the event, is one option.

**10.8 Electricity**

Household electricity is 110vAC at 60 Hz. Electrical points have two flat vertical pins (type A) or two flat vertical pins with a third round (earthing) pin. You can buy adaptors and voltage regulators at the airport, in the hotel, or downtown, or in the shopping centers nearby, such as Gran Estación, Plaza Centro, and San Martín.

We suggest that in any case you check the technical characteristics of any devices you are going to use while you are here.

**10.9 Time zone**

Colombia is five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT -5).

**10.10 Banking services**

Banking hours are from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and Saturday from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Most banks and hotels accept international credit cards. ATMs are available throughout Bogotá. You can also exchange dollars and euros in exchange bureaus.

## 10.11 Emergency telephone numbers of major hospitals

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Medical emergencies** | | | |
|  | **Address** | **Phone** | **E-mail** |
| **Emermedica** **(ambulance service)** | Calle 12b #71D -61 | +57 1 3077098 -+57 1 3077089 |  |
| **Colombian Red Cross** | Avenida 68 No. 68 b-31. | 132 | [*salud@cruzrojacolombiana.org - www.cruzrojacolombiana.org*](mailto:salud@cruzrojacolombiana.org) |
| **Méderi Hospital** | Calle. 24 No. 29 -45. | +57 1 5600520 | [*www.mederi.com.co*](http://www.mederi.com.co/) |
| **Colombia university clinic** | Carrera. 66 No. 23 - 46 | +57 1 5948650 - +57 1 5948660 | [*www.colsanitas.com/usuarios/web/guest/directorio-medico*](http://www.colsanitas.com/usuarios/web/guest/directorio-medico) |
| **OCCIDENTE clinic** | Av. Américas No. 71 C 29 | +57 1 4254620 | [*http://www.clinicadeloccidente.com/*](http://www.clinicadeloccidente.com/) |
| **Clinic for Orthopaedics** | Calle. 6a No.70 - 06 | +57 1 7423099 | [*https://clinica-de-ortopedia-y-accidentes-laborales.negocio.site/*](https://clinica-de-ortopedia-y-accidentes-laborales.negocio.site/) |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Police emergency** | | |
|  | **Phone** | **E-mail** |
| **Colombian National Police** | 112  Mobile:  +57 3002003351  +57 3108076835  +57 3176483469  +57 3118488172 | [*dibie.oac@policia.gov.co*](mailto:dibie.oac@policia.gov.co) |
| **Kidnap and extortion police** | 165 |

# ANNEX A [REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE](http://ich.unesco.org/en/registration-01006)



**ANNEX B IF YOU COME FROM A COUNTRY IN THIS LIST, YOU DO NOT REQUIRE A VISA TO VISIT COLOMBIA**

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Argentina
5. Australia
6. Austria
7. Azerbaijan
8. Bahamas
9. Barbados
10. Belgium
11. Belize
12. Bhutan
13. Bolivia
14. Bosnia and Herzegovina
15. Brazil
16. Brunei-Darussalam
17. Bulgaria
18. Canada
19. Chile
20. Costa Rica
21. Croatia
22. Cyprus
23. Czechia
24. Denmark
25. Dominica
26. Dominican Republic
27. Ecuador
28. El Salvador
29. Estonia
30. Fiji
31. Finland
32. France
33. Georgia
34. Germany
35. Greece
36. Grenada
37. Guatemala
38. Guyana
39. Holy See
40. Honduras
41. Hungary
42. Iceland
43. Indonesia
44. Ireland
45. Israel
46. Italy
47. Jamaica
48. Japan
49. Kazakhstan
50. Latvia
51. Liechtenstein
52. Lithuania
53. Luxembourg
54. Malaysia
55. Malta
56. Marshall Islands
57. Mexico
58. Micronesia (Federated States of)
59. Monaco
60. Montenegro
61. Netherlands
62. New Zealand
63. North Macedonia
64. Norway
65. Palau
66. Panama
67. Papua New Guinea
68. Paraguay
69. Peru
70. Philippines
71. Poland
72. Portugal
73. Qatar
74. Republic of Korea
75. Republic of Moldova
76. Romania
77. Russian Federation
78. Saint Kitts and Nevis
79. Saint Lucia
80. Saint Vincent & Grenadines
81. Samoa
82. San Marino
83. Serbia
84. Singapore
85. Slovakia
86. Slovenia
87. Solomon Islands
88. Spain
89. Suriname
90. Sweden
91. Switzerland
92. Trinidad and Tobago
93. Turkey
94. United Arab Emirates
95. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
96. United States of America
97. Uruguay
98. Venezuela

**ANNEX C RECOMMENDED HOTELS**

**Hotels less than a 15-minute walk from the Venue center** (shuttle buses will **not** be available from these hotels)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Hilton Corferias** | |
|  | Enjoy the best business stay in the comfort of Bogota's largest international chain hotel. Strategically located within Corferias and connected to the Ágora Bogotá Convention Center, the hotel provides quick access to the main business areas and downtown. The hotel has a gymnasium, sauna and indoor pool, and 2,229m² of meeting space for conferences, galas and celebrations. |
| **Address** | Carrera 37 # 24-29, Bogotá |
| **Tel** | +57 [(1) 4434400](https://www.google.com/search?q=Hotel+Hilton+Corferias&rlz=1C1RLNS_esCO839CO839&oq=Hotel+Hilton+Corferias&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i60.511j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) |
| **E-mail** | [sales.corferias@hilton.com](mailto:sales.corferias@hilton.com) |
| **Website** | [*https://www.hiltonhotels.com*](https://www.hiltonhotels.com/es_XM/colombia/hilton-bogota-corferias/) |
| **Room rate** | Single Deluxe room: 134 USD  Double Deluxe room: 155USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 5 minutes  Car: 2 minutes |
| **Ágora** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Estelar de la Feria** | |
|  | The Hotel ESTELAR de la Feria is a hotel near the "Corferias" convention centre. Located 10 km away from El Dorado airport, two blocks from the American Embassy in Bogotá and with all services, restaurants and shops at your reach. Located just a few minutes from the Botanical Garden of Bogotá and the Maloka Science Center, for you to enjoy a business trip or a family vacation. |
| **Address** | Avenida Calle 24 No. 43A-85. |
| **Tel** | (+57) (1) 597 8240 |
| **Website** | [*https://www.estelardelaferia.com*](https://www.estelardelaferia.com/?partner=777&gclid=Cj0KCQjwn8_mBRCLARIsAKxi0GJ5rJHL3hzjDftZGKu24VoGkyfjsSURZt085d7d6TTjaqSiwCQW8q8aAhArEALw_wcB) |
| **Room rate** | Single room: 61 USD  Double room: 73 USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 5 minutes  Car: 2 minutes |
| **Ágora** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Hyatt Place** | |
| Resultado de imagen para hotel hyatt place corferias | Located in the business district Ciudad Empresarial Sarmiento Angulo, it is 7 km from the historic center of Bogotá, and 9km away from El Dorado International airport. Rooms have free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, Nespresso machines, minifridges, safes and, in some cases, mountain views. Superior options and suites have private access to the lounge and free breakfast. The hotel offers free parking, and serves breakfast (for a fee). It has a Japanese steakhouse, an international restaurant, a cocktail bar, cafeteria, spa, gym, indoor pool and space for events. |
| **Address** | Calle 24a #57-60, |
| **Tel** | +57 (1) 6541234 |
| **Website** | [*https://www.hyatt.com/*](https://www.hyatt.com/es-ES/hotel/colombia/grand-hyatt-bogota/boggh) |
| **Room rate** | Single room: 90 USD  Double room: 90 USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 3 minutes  Car: 1 minute |
| **Ágora** | |

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| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Black Tower** | |
|  | The Black Tower Premium Hotel is located 4 minutes away from the Corferias International Exhibition Center, and 15 minutes away from El Dorado International airport. The Black Tower Premium Hotel has a 24-hour reception, meeting room, WI-FI connection in all areas, breakfast included and has a business center and comfortable social areas. The rooms have comfortable beds equipped with ergonomic mattresses, a large wardrobe, satellite TV, minibar, coffee maker, ironing board and private bathroom with shower and hairdryer. The Black Tower Premium Hotel has a 24-hour reception, a garden and a terrace. There is also a common lounge, a tour desk and luggage storage. |
| **Address** | Av. Esperanza 43A - 21 |
| **Tel** | +57 (1) 7424759  +57 320-355-55-55 |
| **E-mail** | [*ecommerce@btphotel.com*](mailto:ecommerce@btphotel.com) |
| **Website** | [*http://www.blacktowerhotel.com/*](http://www.blacktowerhotel.com/) |
| **Room rate** | Single room: 49 USD  Double room: 58 USD  Suite: 89 USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 4 minutes  Car: 1 minute |
| **Ágora** | |

**Hotels more than a 15-minute walk from the Venue center** (shuttle buses will be available from these hotels)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Wyndham Bogota Art** | |
| Gallery image of this property | Just a short 10-minute drive from El Dorado International airport, this beautiful hotel features an on-site bar, plus a restaurant with international cuisine. Each air-conditioned room at the hotel boasts modern décor and comes with a flat-screen cable TV, a minibar and a private bathroom with a shower and toilet. The Corferias Convention Center and the International Convention Center Agora are just 2 km from the Wyndham. |
| **Address** | Av. La Esperanza # 51 – 40 |
| **Tel** | +57 (1) 608 3000 Reservations: +57 (1) 608 3030 |
| **E-mail** | info@hotelwyndhambogota.com |
| **Website** | [*https://www.hotelwyndhambogota.com/*](https://www.hotelwyndhambogota.com/) |
| **Room rate** | Single room: 73 USD  Double room: 79 USD  Suite: 101 USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 21 minutes  The hotel will provide shuttle transport for its hosts between the hotel and the Committee Venue at the start and end of the day´s sessions |
| **Ágora** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hotel Embassy Park** | |
| Gallery image of this property | The Embassy Park is a classical hotel with modern facilities in Bogotá. It is a 15 -minute drive from El Dorado airport and it’s near Corferias center. It offers a spa and a well-equipped gym.  The tasteful suites at Hotel Embassy Park have queen or king-size beds with beige suede quilts and elegant wooden furniture. All are equipped with cable TV and free Wi-Fi.  The restaurant serves gourmet cuisine and features an extensive list of fine wines. A breakfast buffet with tropical fruits, natural juices and pastries is served daily. The hotel offers 5 event rooms |
| **Address** | Avenida de La Esperanza # 44 A – 79 |
| **Tel** | +57 (1) 2681666 |
| **E-mail** | [reservas@hotelembassypark.com](mailto:reservas@hotelembassypark.com) |
| **Website** | [*http://www.hotelembassypark.com/*](http://www.hotelembassypark.com/) |
| **Room rate** | Single room: 51 USD  Double room: 62 USD |
| **Distance to Venue Center** | Walking: 17 minutes  Car: 7 minutes |
| **Ágora** | |
|  | |

**ANNEX D INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN COLOMBIA**

For more information: <http://patrimonio.mincultura.gov.co>

Colombia´s cultural landscape has been widely recognized as one of the most complex and diverse of Latin America. This cultural wealth is a direct consequence of the historical process of the intercultural mix of the Afro-American, Indigenous and European population since the Colonial Period, which is reflected today in a great plurality of local identities and expressions of the communities across the country. Cultural diversity is Colombia´s most valued heritage and has been the cornerstone of cultural and sustainable development. Afro-Colombians, Palenquera and Raizal communities, ROM and gypsy communities, indigenous peoples, subsistence farming communities, *mestizos* and any number of other social groups enrich our cultural mosaic. Our cultural heritage, rooted in the past, shapes our present and allows us to look forward into the future.

Colombia´s intangible cultural heritage is made up of the rhythms and melodies of its different musical traditions, cosmogonies and oral traditions; the rituals and ceremonies of Holy Week, the carnivals and festivals that celebrate life and death, the colorful dances and parades and the sacred systems of knowledge of our indigenous farmers and communities. The Cultural Heritage is expressed in the wisdom of the artisan who places ancestral know-how at the service of his own art or craft, or even of the special flavors of a delicious dish directly served at your table.

Following the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003, Colombia´s Ministry of Culture adopted the Convention in 2006, and drew up its Public Policy for the Safeguard of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009. The core of this policy is to safeguard our cultural heritage, taking into account its pluralist and multicultural character, and the role it plays as an asset in the social welfare of our communities. Its main aim in that area has been to strengthen social capacities for the local management of the heritage, which we believe to be a key strategy for sustainable development.

**11.1 Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Colombia**

The National Representative List of ICH was created by the Ministry of Culture as a special mechanism for the safeguarding of the most important elements of ICH inscribed at national level, following the example of the Representative List of ICH of Humanity. The List includes a group of significant elements formally incorporated into a special catalogue by an administrative act. The consolidation of this List is in particular evidence of an enormous effort to expand the notion of cultural diversity through the inclusion of various practices and expressions; and it entails the social construction of a **Special Safeguarding Plan** (SPP), which is fundamentally a social pact that includes the best means and strategies to safeguard each registered item. At this moment, there are 22 items inscribed on the National List, eight of which are also inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and two appear on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. A brief description of each element is given below.

**Elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity[[2]](#footnote-3)**

* **Carnival of Barranquilla**

*(proclaimed in 2003 and inscribed in 2008, 3.COM)*

Every year during the four days before Lent, the Barranquilla Carnival offers a repertory of dances and musical expressions originating from different Colombian sub-cultures. The blending of various local traditions permeates numerous aspects of the carnival, particularly dances, musical genres and folk instruments.

* **Cultural Space of the Palenque de San Basilio**

*(proclaimed in 2005 and inscribed in 2008, 3.COM)*

The village of Palenque de San Basilio, with a population of about 3,500 inhabitants, is located in the foothills of the Montes de María, southeast of the regional capital, Cartagena. The Cultural Space of Palenque de San Basilio encompasses social, medical and religious practices, as well as musical and oral traditions, many of which have African roots. The social organization of the community is based on family networks and age groups called ma kuagro. The kuagro membership comes with a set of rights and duties towards other group members and entails strong internal solidarity. Daily work and special events are jointly undertaken by all kuagro members.

* **Holy Week processions in Popayán**

*(inscribed in 2009, 4.COM)*

The Holy Week processions in Popayán are one of the oldest traditions in Colombia, practised since the colonial period. From the Tuesday to the Saturday before Easter, between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., a series of processions take place.  Each procession is set around reliquary floats, or steps, which are created and assembled according to complex rules. The reliquary floats are adorned with ornate, flower-decked wooden statues, most of which date from the late eighteenth century and depict the Easter story. The route is flanked on either side by worshippers carrying candles and wearing special clothing.

* **Black and White Carnival**

*(inscribed in 2009, 4.COM)*

Arising out of native Andean and Hispanic traditions, the Carnaval de Negros y Blancos (Black and White Carnival) in San Juan de Pasto in south-western Colombia is a great celebration lasting from 28 December to 6 January each year. The celebrations begin on the 28th with the Carnival of Water − the throwing of water in homes and on the streets to initiate a festive mood. On New Year’s Eve, the Old Year’s parade takes place, with marchers carrying satirical figures representing celebrities and current events, and culminating in a ritual burning of the passing year. The main days of the carnival are the last two, when people of all ethnicities don black cosmetics on the first day, then white talcum on the next to symbolize equality and integrate all citizens through a celebration of ethnic and cultural difference. The Black and White Carnival is a period of intense communion, when private homes become collective workshops for the display and transmission of carnival arts and a wide range of people come together to express their views of life. The festival is especially important as the expression of a mutual desire for a future of tolerance and respect.

* **Wayuu normative system, applied by the Pütchipü’üi (*palabrero)***

*(inscribed in 2010, 5.COM)*

The Wayuu community inhabits the Guajira Peninsula straddling Colombia and Venezuela. Its legislative system comprises a body of principles, procedures and rites that govern the social and spiritual conduct of the community. The system, inspired by principles of reparation and compensation, is applied by the local moral authorities, the Pütchipü’üi or palabreros (orators), who are experts in resolving conflicts and disputes between the local matrilineal clans.

* **Traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí**

*(inscribed in 2011, 6.COM)*

The mythical and cosmological structures that make up the traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí represent the cultural heritage of the many ethnic groups that live along the Pirá Paraná River in south-eastern Colombia, in the department of Vaupés. According to ancestral wisdom, the Pirá Paraná forms the heart of a large area called the territory of the jaguars of Yuruparí, whose sacred sites contain vital spiritual energy that nurtures all living beings in the world. The jaguar shamans follow a calendar of ceremonial rituals, based upon their sacred traditional knowledge, to draw the community together, heal, prevent sickness and revitalize nature. The rituals feature songs and dances that embellish the healing process. The vital energy and traditional knowledge of the shamans are believed to be inherited from an all-powerful, mythical Yuruparí, an anaconda that lived as a person, and is embodied in treasured sacred trumpets fashioned from a palm tree.

* **Festival of Saint Francis of Assisi, Quibdó**

*(inscribed in 2012, 7.COM)*

Every year from 3 September to 5 October the twelve Franciscan districts of Quibdó, Colombia, hold the Fiesta de San Pacho, a celebration of the community’s Afro-descendant Chocó identity, embedded in popular-rooted religion. It begins with the Catholic ‘Inaugural Mass’ at the Cathedral blended with traditional dances and chirimía music performed by the San Francis of Assisi Band. This is followed by a parade of carnival groups featuring costumes, dances and chirimía. Each district offers a morning mass and allegorical floats and carnival groups in the afternoon. On 3 October, the patron saint travels the Atrato River by boats, and on 4 October people celebrate the dawn with devotional hymns and perform the Grand Procession of the Saint in the afternoon.

* **Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from the Colombia South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador**

*(inscribed in 2015, 10.COM)*

Marimba music and traditional chants and dances are musical expressions integral to the family and community fabric of people of African descent in the Colombian South Pacific region and Esmeraldas Province of Ecuador. Chanted stories and poems are performed by men and women at ritual, religious and festive events as a celebration of life, a form of worship to saints or as a farewell to the deceased, and are accompanied by rhythmic movements of the body. The marimba music is played on a palm wood xylophone with bamboo tube resonators, accompanied by drums and maracas. The element is rooted in family and daily activities and the community as a whole is considered the bearer and practitioner, irrespective of age or gender. 

**Elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**

* + **Traditional Vallenato music of the Greater Magdalena region**

(inscribed in 2015, 10.COM)

Traditional Vallenato music fuses cultural expressions from northern Colombia, the songs of cowherds of the Greater Magdalena region and the chants of African slaves with the traditional dance rhythms of the indigenous people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. These expressions are also blended with Spanish poetry and musical instruments of European derivation. The lyrics of traditional Vallenato music interpret the world through stories that mix realism and fantasy, expressed through songs that are nostalgic, joyful, sarcastic and humorous. Traditional instruments include a small drum played with the hands, a wooden ribbed stick played with a wire comb, and an accordion. 

* + **Colombian-Venezuelan llano work** songs

*(inscribed in 2017, 12.COM)*

Colombian-Venezuelan llano work songs are a practice of vocal communication consisting of tunes sung individually, *a capella*, on the themes of herding and milking. The practice emerged from the close relationship between human communities and cattle and horses and is in harmony with the environmental conditions and the dynamics of nature, forming part of the traditional animal husbandry system of the Llanos. Transmitted orally from childhood, the songs are repositories of the individual and collective stories of the llaneros.

**Elements inscribed only on the National Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Colombia**

For more information: [http://patrimonio.mincultura.gov.co](http://patrimonio.mincultura.gov.co/)

* **Riosucio Carnival**

Riosucio Carnival takes place in January every odd year. The Devil’s Carnival is the most important character of this festival that has three important moments: preparation, sanction and consummation. The preparation lasts from July to December, and is composed of the “Opening of the Carnavalera Republic” and the “decrees”, which are pieces of “matachinesca” literature composed in rhyme, handed out once a month and submitted to the Devil. These pieces emulate the tone used by politicians in their speeches in public places, and their content is the appeal for urgent needs. The next step is the sanction, a theatrical performance to show the people they are ready for the big party. Finally, the consummation stage corresponds to the week of the carnival itself, which is when the creativity of “*comparsas*” (parades, carriages, dancers and others) is most remarkable.

* **Saint Martín Horse Quadrille**

San Martin de los Llanos is the town that has annually housed the horse quadrilles since 1735 every November. This festival is a mixture of European customs and local culture items which represent the process of colonization, miscegenation and hybridization in the Eastern Plains of Colombia, and whose main aim is to show and value the skills of the plains citizen as a horse rider and tamer of his region. The festival is composed of ten equestrian acts to honor Saint Martin of Tours, the patron saint of the town. There are two protocol horsemen along with four of peace and four of war, which are called: greeting, challenge, shoes, comb, half squares, snail, piggy banks, snake, walk and farewell. The show includes four horse quadrilles and holds forty-eight main horsemen, twelve alternates, and four coordinators, all of them are called “*cuadrilleros*” (horse quadrille members) and are divided in four groups that represent gallants or Spanish men as well as Arabians, natives and black ones.

* **National meeting of bands in Paipa**

What started as a regional band meeting held by the Tourist and Crafts Office of Boyacá in 1973 became, two years later, the oldest and largest National Contest of Musical Bands, which has been organized by “Corbandas” since 1979. This event brings together the most competitive bands, which makes it appealing not only for tourists, but also for mass media since it is a chance to witness the musical event with the greatest diversity of categories in the country, that includes junior, senior, special, party or popular bands; and university and professional groups.

* **The process of forming and living as nükak baka (real people)**

The*Nükak people* have defined a whole cultural heritage that includes all kinds of rituals, parenting patterns, habits and knowledge regarding the cycle of life that serves people get ready to strengthen their body and therefore, be able to set up a home, give birth and raise the children, so they can be “*real people*”. All of this within the oral “*nükak baka” tradition,* this sample of intangible historical heritage includes the traditional knowledge that makes it possible to handle day by day life peacefully and in harmony with the environment.

* **The tradition of celebrating godchildren with pots of alfeñique in the city of Santiago de Cali**

Who would believe that a pot made of a special material represents an ancestral custom? The making of the pots using “alfeñique” and its use as a gift to affirm the symbolic kinship between godfathers and godchildren is a practice that takes place every 29 of June, (St Peter and St Paul´s Day). It is an exclusive celebration from Santiago de Cali city. The pot is composed of a *maguey* stem adorned with alfeñique sweets shaped as pineapples, and many colorful ornaments such as little windmills It is believed that this custom comes from the link between the pots and the sugar plantation slaves´ love of sweet dishes: and the giving of the pots on this occasion as an annual confirmation and renewal of the symbolic relationship between godparents and godchildren.

* **Bëtscnaté or Big Day of the Camëntsá tradition**

The identity of the “Camëntsá” community is based on The “Bëtscnaté” tradition. It begins on 2 November with the “Uacjnayte”, or Day of Offerings, when the “uastajuayan” (placing the food to offer the deceased) or “uatsembon” (oral offering of food to the deceased) takes place. These are preparatory rituals that last until the day of the celebration of Bëtscnaté, or Big Day of the Camëntsá tradition, which takes place on the Monday before Ash Wednesday. During the Bëtscnaté, the memory of the community is celebrated, through the teachings of the ancestors, relatives, friends and elders. It is also the day of reunion for the family, the affirmation of respect for the elders, of sharing food with each other and of search for opportunities for individual reconciliation with the Lord, nature, spirits and family, and with the other members of the community, and even with people who do not belong to it.

* **Live Paintings of Galeras, Sucre**

The live painting is a public and ephemeral tableau of a scene stopped in time. It is about an event, an allegory or a motive, generally of a religious, moral, historical and sometimes satirical nature. When it comes to Galeras, the tableau forms on the street and it portrays religious and profane scenes, and other traditional themes and presentations of high aesthetic value. It is a popular expression, whose roots come from the neighbourhood, and it is performed by spontaneous actors, mostly young. The shows, which lasts two hours, between six and eight at night, takes place in “dress streets” (decorated for the occasion) and in front of the houses.

* **Gualíes, alabaos and the raising of tombs: rites of the dead in the Afro communities of the Middle San Juan**

The rites for the dead of the Afro-Colombian communities of the Pacific represent an accompaniment for the deceased and the family, helping the deceased children or adults on their soul´s journey to eternity. The “*gualíes*” consist of recitals, songs and games and they last for one or more nights during a child's wake. The “*alabaos*” are choral songs of praise and offerings to the saints, normally sung without instruments. They are commonly used in funerals as songs for an adult´s wake. The raising of the tomb is carried out on the ninth and last day of an adult's vigil when the altar is torn down at five in the morning, as a seal on the departure of the deceased. It is the last farewell to a loved one.

* **Silletera cultural tradition**

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the main product traded by the peasants of Santa Elena, territory of the municipalities of Guarne, Envigado, Medellín and Rionegro, were the flowers transported in a system of wooden crates called “*silletas”*. The farmers cultivated and sold flowers and aromatic herbs, among other products of the farm, in the markets and streets of cities and towns of the “Aburrá” Valley and the Antioquia East. The “silletera” cultural tradition brings together around 500 families - more than two thousand people - who own and transmit peasant and artistic knowledge and practices, not also around flowers, but also around the tools to transport them, and the frame and the carrier. This knowledge, practices and instruments have been transmitted by several generations for about 150 years.

* **Afro Pacific midwifery**

The knowledge associated with Afro midwifery in the Colombian Pacific are knowledge and techniques on the body, plants and their use, which have been developed mainly by women in the region to provide care, assist the women’s reproductive cycle, and to diagnose and treat diseases of communities in general through the healing use made of plants and the relationship that midwives weave with the biodiversity present in their places of origin. That link, and the religious character represented by the saints invoked and the prayers that accompany the office of midwifery, are important elements for the black communities of the Pacific.

* **Ancestral knowledge system of the Arhuaco, Kankuamo, Kogui and Wiwa people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta**

For the Arhuaco, Kankuamo, Kogui and Wiwa indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM), the Law of Origin is the highest rule, the foundation of a person´s thinking; it is the sacred mandate that contains the principles and elements that underpin the existence and harmony of the universe, regulating everything that exists. The Law of Origin is a set of teaching-learning codes that embody the Knowledge System and the ancestral wisdom of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada. This law must be respected to guarantee social coexistence, harmony and balance between all the natural components of the body of Mother Earth. The mandates of the Law of Origin are the framework and essence of the system of self-governance in the condition of indigenous peoples, in accordance with the fulfillment of the norms established by their Spíritual Mothers and Fathers, who are still a constant in their thoughts of their ancestors, and who in the past, fought for the prevalence of ways of coexisting with Mother Nature.

* + **Traditional knowledge and techniques associated with the Mopa Mopa varnish of Pasto**

The Pasto varnish is an artisan technique which consists of protecting, waterproofing and decorating everyday wooden objects with special designs. The objects are treated with the resin of the Mopa Mopa bush, to be found in the hills around the Amazon basin of Putumayo in south-west Colombia. The whole process implies a deep knowledge of nature and natural ecosystems. This artisan technique has been preserved over time by the collectors of the resin who have their own set of unique knowledge. The production of these specially treated objects can be seen as a source of cultural, technical and economic wealth for their communities.

**11.2 Colombian traditional cuisine programme**

Colombia´s multicultural, multi-ethnic and biodiverse wealth is reflected in its local and regional traditional cuisines, shaped by local knowledge, memories, and the techniques and tastes of millions of peasant-farmers, fishermen, traditional cooks and diners who gather each day around the meaning of a meal.

In Colombia, traditional cuisines are considered a cornerstone of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Colombia. In fact, they are creative expressions that reflect the local history of communities and even their own understanding of their natural and ecological environment. These cultural cosmovisions, expressed in the everyday life of traditional cooks and citizens who enjoy such meals, are also related to local knowledge concerning the use and preparation of natural resources and ingredients. This is what makes traditional cuisines vital cultural practices in the consolidation of local identities.

Since 2012, Colombia has had a “Public policy for the knowledge, protection and promotion of the traditional cuisines of Colombia”. Its main objective is the assessment and protection of the cultural diversity expressed in the knowledge, practices, memories and dishes that form part of the Colombian traditional cuisines.

**11.3** **Intangible Cultural Heritage in Urban Contexts Programme**

The **Intangible Cultural Heritage in Urban Contexts** **Programme** generates new tools that enable us to understand how urban contexts are a scenario, not only for the acceptance of cultural diversity, but also for economic and social migrations and, above all, for the permanent reconstruction of ICH. For this purpose, the programme argues that urban heritage is not only expressed in its constructed forms, but through the living uses and traditions that, in urban contexts, create places full of meaning. Therefore, one of the axes of the programme consists of prioritizing land use and urban planning as factors in the safeguarding of ICH. Urban ICH promotes the idea that the spaces where the cultural practices related to the ICH take place, should be integrated into the vision of long-term sustainable development of different cities in Colombia. Consequently, the Urban ICH programme is a new platform of opportunities for experts, practitioners and managers of Colombian ICH, as their safeguarding practices contribute to the *right to the city*, being this understood as the possibility of building a city in which all its inhabitants recognize each other as part of it and as contributors to a context of well-being.

Instruments such as the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO (2003) and the Policy for the Safeguarding of Colombian Intangible Cultural Heritage (2009) have promoted the importance of safeguarding ICH as a cultural right. To achieve this goal, however, we must understand the challenges of accelerated urbanization and development in this country. These issues produce rapid cultural changes that are reflected in new forms of social organization, cohabitation, the multiplication of expressions of identity, the definition of territory and paths, along with the economic and political processes that influence the dynamics of heritage in the urban.

The programme responds to the route to sustainable development proposed by the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda. One of its objectives is that cities and human settlements should be resilient and sustainable (Objective No. 11), and the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage is defined as one of the means to achieve it. There is an explicit recognition at international level that the capacity of cities and urban contexts to sustain ways of dignified life can be enhanced by the cultural heritage that characterizes its inhabitants.

The methodological toolbox of intangible cultural heritage - ICH in urban contexts - is meant to support communities and public institutions in their efforts to achieve the sustainability of those cultural practices, valued as intangible heritage, that help to improve the quality of life of cities in Colombia, from a practical approach based on a joint work among actors, places and processes.

The toolbox seeks to strengthen the capacities of collectives, social groups and organizations in order to manage, preserve, promote and transmit the practices of intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts. It is composed of the following three steps:

* + 1. *Mapping and participatory identification*
    2. *Dialogue with the City*
    3. *Management alternatives*

The ICH in Urban Contexts Programme has achieved:

* Design of the form of capture of territorial information for the Modern TOP (Territorial Organization Plan), a Programme that territorial entities can use to gather basic information that will make it possible for ICH safeguarding decisions to be incorporated into the territorial planning. Here, Colombia has become a pioneer country in the incorporation of ICH into both TOPs and Development Plans.
* June 2017 - present: Theoretical and field research in 22 territories with community participation and multiple stakeholders. The result has been the creation of guidelines and a methodological toolbox of intangible cultural heritage - ICH in Urban Contexts. It has attracted specific cooperation projects to implement the ICH in Urban Contexts Programme in central and local government agencies.
* July 31, August 1-2, 2018: The First International ICH in Urban Contexts Forum was held, with the participation of the UNESCO Secretariat of the Intangible Heritage Convention.
* September 28, 2018: At the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held in Mauritius, Colombia presented the Urban ICH Programme to the Convention Member Countries.

**11.4. The construction of development and culture indicators**

Since 2018, Colombia has participated as a pilot case in the construction of cultural Indicators as an instrument in the 2030 Agenda. The project consists of developing a pilot to apply the methodology of thematic indicators for culture in an ambitious project that includes the application of all UNESCO cultural conventions -with indicators- to measure the impact of the sector on the development of the 2030 Agenda. This initiative is implemented simultaneously at the national and metropolitan levels (in collaboration with the Bogotá City Culture, Recreation and Sports Department).

**11.5 Line of Memory and Heritage**

Memory is one of the constituent elements of the identity of a community. It enables a community to establish social links and continuity with the past, building a sense of a present that looks toward a future. This framework seeks the strengthening of collective memory for the reconstruction of the social fabric of the community and local identity.

The project "**Intangible Cultural Heritage for integration and coexistence**" is currently being developed, with the support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Fund of UNESCO. The project is using ICH to help strengthen the social fabric of the community of “Conejo”, a town in La Guajira peninsula which is a recipient of former FARC guerrillas. Since its implementation in September 2018 and to date, the project has promoted environments for dialogue in order to generate mutual recognition of the communities that currently occupy the two territory-communities there (“Conejo”, and “Fariana” -i.e., ex-FARC). The plan implemented has created work scenarios, from ICH and memory, that allow exchange between those communities and so, move towards the integration of the community, with better coexistence for both in the territory. This project was nominated by UNESCO to participate in the Paris Peace Forum, which took place from 11 to 13 November, 2018.

**11.6 ICH associated with communities, collectives, ethnic groups and specific populations**

This line seeks to use a differential approach to help for the construction of a diverse nation more visible, for the benefit of indigenous, Afro-Colombian, *raizal*, gypsy and peasant-farming communities, alongside other collectives. Colombia has developed:

- Policy guidelines for the identification of the ICH in rural communities

- Policy guidelines for identification of the ICH in the Rom (gypsy) people.

**11.7 The African Diaspora Project in Colombia**

The African Diaspora project in Colombia proposes, on the one hand, to provide recognition, justice and development for the Afro-Colombian population, and on the other, to make their participation visible in the construction of the nation-territory and their own territories. This initiative is part of the United Nations declaration of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

The initiative seeks to strengthen spaces for the transmission of traditional knowledge of black, Afro-Colombian, “*palenquer*” and “*raizal*” communities, and to promote the development of Afro-Colombian cultural ventures that will generate a heritage network for the re-creation of Afro-Colombian living memories through the circulation of cultural goods and services.

In the 13.COM, this African Diaspora project in Colombia was socialized with African countries such as Togo, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Cameroon., Ivory Coast and Cape Verde; and with Belize.

**11.8 Training strategy for the strengthening of ICH social management**

This strategy has been implemented since 2012. It aims to generate capacities and values in all the actors involved in the National Cultural Heritage System so that both bearers of demonstrations, and the range of public and private entities, will assume commitments to the safeguarding of the ICH.

As a result of this strategy, more than 650 people have been trained face-to-face or online.

**The project “My heritage, my region”** is currently being implemented, with the support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Fund of UNESCO, which aims to strengthen the social management competences of the ICH in the Departments of Arauca and Casanare, and to ensure that the various social and institutional actors present in these territories will be able to generate strategies of their own to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage.

**11.9 Inventories and research**

Inventories are understood as participatory processes of identification, documentation, diagnosis and registration of Intangible Cultural Heritage for safeguarding purposes.

A knowledge management strategy is being built up for ICH. It includes both the monitoring of cultural public policies for the safeguarding of ICH and the enhancement of information networks, and dialogue with some of the leading ICH researchers, universities and research institutes.

**11.10 National incentive program**

This program of the Ministry of Culture is a financing mechanism for initiatives that communities can present without institutional intermediation, a factor that has facilitated and expanded participation. There have been several lines of work in the Programme that have enabled communities to implement initiatives in their own territories, using their own methodologies and dynamics:

• Scholarships for the implementation of actions to safeguard expressions not registered in the national Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

• Scholarships for the implementation of Special Safeguarding Plans (SSP) of the expressions registered in the national Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

• Scholarships to promote the application of methodologies for identification, knowledge, planning and management of Intangible Cultural Heritage in urban contexts.

• Scholarships for research in traditional knowledge applied to the conservation, management and sustainable use of nature and biodiversity.

* Recognition of community initiatives for the transmission and safeguarding of traditional food knowledge and practices.

**11.11 Strategy for Traditional Crafts**

The intersectoral and articulated work that promotes the strengthening and protection of cultural heritage becomes an element that relates diversity, knowledge and practices of communities and collectives. This work benefits not only identity-building but also their economic, social and cultural development, as one way to help construct of a better country.

1. **COLOMBIA ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

The World Heritage List was created in 1972 alongside the World Heritage Convention. The List includes the cultural, natural and mixed sites that stand out for their astonishing cultural and natural riches. It is about milestones, not only for history, but also for development. It concerns symbols that serve to enhance global awareness of values that must be preserved, for the outstanding role they play in the construction of a better society. It is also about places, whose value for communities, creates collective linkages that entail the right and obligation to secure their preservation. Colombia has registered the following places In the World Heritage List:

* [Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285)
* [Los Katíos National Park](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711)
* [Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/742)
* [National Archeological Park of Tierradentro](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/743)
* [San Agustín Archaeological Park](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/744)
* [Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1216)
* [Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1121)
* [Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459) [\*](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=colombia&order=country#transboundary)
* [Chiribiquete National Park – “The Maloca of the Jaguar”](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1174)

For more information, see: [*https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=colombia&order=country*](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=colombia&order=country)

1. **INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN COLOMBIA**

In contemporary cities cultural diversity expresses itself in a particularly powerful way, and Bogota is no exception. Colombia’s capital city has been shaped by multiple migration processes from outside and from within, which have made of Bogota a melting-pot of varied cultures and traditions. In a context in which tradition and innovation are at constant play, and millions of people –approximately one fifth of Colombia’s population—have developed particular ways of living together in the same city. Constantly negotiating a delicate balance between tradition and innovation, communities across Bogota have distinct cultural practices that can sometimes become fertile ground for intercultural exchange in an urban territory.

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Bogotá is both urban and rural. It reflects Colombia’s rich cultural diversity along with the dynamism of a great city. ICH manifests itself in the knowledge of glass- makers, leatherworkers and marble-carvers. It is also visible in traditional marketplaces, where the exchange is not only of goods, but also of specialized knowledge about medicinal plants, shared and passed down generations of traders and peasant-farmers. It is a kitchen of migrant flavours and styles of cuisine; of rituals and ceremonies that combine religious elements, vernacular practices and popular cultures that perpetuate the memories of rural, indigenous and African-descent Colombia. Bogota’s ICH is also visible in urban and rural agriculture, where community and domestic allotments are the reflection of traditional knowledge passed on from peasant-farmers to city dwellers who strive for sustainability and food sovereignty.

Following the Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH of 2003, and the Public Policy for the Safeguarding of the ICH of Colombia of 2009, and in tune with the ICH in Urban Contexts Programme of the Ministry of Culture, the City´s Cultural Heritage Institute (IDPC) has been implementing projects and programmes aimed at safeguarding the city’s ICH, using participatory practices. These initiatives were carried out with the active involvement of local communities both to identify the elements of ICH elements and to form decision-making processes referred to safeguarding strategies in the short, medium and long term. IDPC has explored alternatives to the national listing system, in efforts to keep in step with rapid cultural change in the city; the dynamic expressions of ICH in Bogota are understood as a rich ground to promote intercultural dialogue and common wellbeing, and to promote resilient and sustainable communities in an urban territory.

The following list is a selection of some emblematic elements of Bogota’s ICH, identified by the programmes and projects mentioned here. As such, this list is the result of collective decision-making processes and can be redefined according to ongoing participatory processes in Bogota today.

**Some emblematic elements of Bogota’s ICH**

Urban agriculture

Agriculture has a strong presence in Bogota and involves organic practices and knowledge passed on from former rural to current urban dwellers. It is strongly connected to migration from the countryside to the city, and constitutes a praxis aimed at food sovereignty. Practitioners involve everyone – the elderly, adults, the young and children alike. Preparing the soil, sowing, tending the crop, and reaping the harvesting are fundamental, along with composting, organic fertilizer production, terrace-building and seed exchange networks. Small and medium-sized communities, families and schools have allotments created around the urban edges of the city, close to places in need of environmental action, such as wetlands, or spaces of neglect and risk for local communities. Herbs, vegetables, legumes, fruits, bees and butterflies make up the landscape in these spaces, where native crops such as corn and beans persist; and composting helps to reduce the daily load added to the city’s landfills.

Practice and knowledge associated with the use of plants traded at the Samper Mendoza herb market

This element refers to the knowledge and practices that manifest themselves at the Samper Mendoza herb market, which dates from the early 20th Century. This herb market is open from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. every Monday to Tuesday and Thursday to Friday. The knowledge associated with this market involves the medicinal, culinary and esoteric properties of the plants traded there, and the timing of crops and their harvesting. Growers, traders and buyers exchange this kind of knowledge continuously: they share the virtues of plants and bear witness to their effectiveness. This is a place where the relationship between the city and the surrounding countryside becomes clear, in the largest market for the herb trade in Colombia; more than 3,000 plant varieties are traded here by night and distributed across the city and elsewhere by day, taking with them the knowledge associated to their special properties.

Glass-making trades in San Cristóbal

Three distinct trades related to glass production survive today in the borough of San Cristóbal, in the south of Bogota: glass carving, glass blowing and blowtorch glass. In the 1940s, glass-making became popular after factories were set up in the area, close to the quarries. The local population became involved in this trade, and even though the factories have now disappeared, this knowledge continues to be passed on through generations of glass-making families. After learning the techniques, glass masters develop their own tricks and personal tools, mostly to make objects for household use or laboratory equipment. More recently, they have introduced new design concepts in shape and colour, opening up opportunities for participation in exhibitions and live demonstrations, and for bringing their products to market. Glass-making constitutes a productive alternative for its practitioners; it is a lively tradition widely recognized in the local sphere as an element that reflects identity and collective memory for the people of San Cristóbal.

Feast of the Three Kings and the Epiphany

This celebration is held on a yearly basis during the first weekend of January at the neighborhood of Egypt, in the center of Bogota. The celebration lasts for three days in which religious and secular elements combine to commemorate the arrival of the Three Kings to the birth of Jesus, and to celebrate communal values. A traditional mass starts the celebration, followed by a theatrical representation of the Biblical scene, street games, music and traditional street food (mainly *chicha* - a drink made from fermented corn - and *pelanga,* a preparation of stewed beef). In the past, the feast ended with the *burning of the devil*, a doll filled with gunpowder hung from the church tower was burned, to represent the ritual beginning of a new cycle. Even though local inhabitants trace the beginning of this feast to the early 20th century, recent research has revealed that its origins can be traced back to Spanish colonial times, possibly the 16th Century. Today, the Feast of the Three Kings and Epiphany remains an event for tightening community bonds and strengthening the sense of local identity in Bogota.

The preparation and uses of *chicha* and other fermented drinks

*Chicha* is a fermented drink that is still common in Bogotá and the surrounding region of Cundinamarca and Boyacá. Its making and consumption has been transmitted through many generations and has become a symbol of an enduring indigenous ancestry and peasant-farming culture. Through many centuries, *chicha* has overcome systematic campaigns engineered by the beer industry, governments and the local press to defame it. Although it is more generally made of corn, it is also prepared from other foods such as native root vegetables and fruit. In Bogotá, “seven grain” *chicha* is most common, where corn grains are ground, toasted and fermented. Other similar fermented drinks, such as *masato* and *guarapo*, are made of rice, cassava, corn, sugarcane and pineapple. The making and consumption of these beverages in Bogota is commonly associated to festive practices, such as family gatherings, religious and popular celebrations.

1. Colombia.travel. (n.d.). INFORMATION OF COLOMBIA. [online] Available at: http://www.colombia.travel/en/practical-information/health-and-vaccination. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Taken from UNESCO official site [↑](#footnote-ref-3)