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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room XIV**

**24 May 2017, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 2**

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/2 and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its meeting as annexed to that Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Provisional agenda of the second meeting of the 12.COM Bureau**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agenda item | |  | Document |
| 1. | Opening |  |  |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda |  | ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/2 |
| 3. | Utilization of the funds allocated for ‘other functions of the Committee’ under the Plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund |  | ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/3  *ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/INF.3**Implementation Report of the Spending Plan for the ‘Other Functions of the Committee’  1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016* |
| 4. | Examination of requests for International Assistance up to US$100,000 |  | ITH/17/10.COM 2.BUR/4 |
| 5. | Other business |  |  |
| 6. | Closure |  |  |

DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 3

The Bureau,

1. Having examined documents ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/3 and its annex and document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/INF.3,
2. Recalling Resolution 6.GA 9, Decision 10.COM 8 and Decision 11.COM 2.BUR 1,
3. Approves the Proposal for the utilization of the funds for ‘Other functions of the Committee’ as annexed to this Decision;
4. Requests that the Secretariat reports on the progress of implementation and the way the funds are spent;
5. Invites the Chairperson of the Committee to bring this decision to the attention of the Committee at its twelth session.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.1**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01027,
3. Takes note that Burkina Faso has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Capacity-building for the safeguarding of mask expressions in Burkina Faso**:

The project aims to promote and safeguard the intangible cultural heritage connected with mask expressions. Mask traditions are deeply rooted in the social fabric of numerous communities in Burkina Faso, where masks guarantee stability of order and social well-being. At each event, masks come in various forms to commemorate rituals and to purify and give fertility to the land, human beings and flora and fauna, thereby responding to religious, political, cultural, economic, environmental, sanitary and social concerns. The practice of mask traditions has been transmitted from generation to generation but it now faces numerous threats connected, *inter alia*, with the influence of inter-faith disputes, illegal trafficking, demographics and urbanization causing certain spaces for expression to disappear. This project aims to respond to some of the recommendations given in a study carried out in 2010 by the *Association pour la Sauvegarde des Masques* (ASAMA), including strengthening laws and regulations, drawing up inventories, promoting values associated with masks, strengthening the appropriation of traditional spaces for mask expressions and combating the theft of masks. The aim of the project - implemented by the same association in two administrative regions of Burkina Faso bordering with Mali (the Boucle du Mouhoun region and the Hauts-Bassins region) - is to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of communities and other stakeholders concerned with this practice by holding forums in 18 municipalities, organizing 10 training workshops and holding travelling exhibitions in 5 towns and cities.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Burkina Faso requested an allocation of US$24,925.51 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01027, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: In the absence of a detailed description and of a precise definition of the communities that recognize the various mask-related expressions as forming part of their cultural heritage, their involvement to the widest extent possible in the preparation and implementation of the request is not sufficiently proven; the project's list of "targets" seems to be too broad to correspond to the communities whose intangible cultural heritage would be concerned by the project; likewise, the communities do not seem to be placed at the heart of the project insofar as their involvement appears to be limited to that of passive recipients of activities that they are not actively involved in designing and implementing;

**Criterion A.2**: The amount requested does not seem to tally with the ambitious scope of a project that is targeting 20,000 beneficiary practitioners and seeking to train 400 people and organize 5 travelling exhibitions; with only 28% of the amount requested being allotted to capacity building, the total budget seems barely capable of enabling the project to achieved the desired results; more detailed information about the expenditure required for each activity is also necessary to provide sufficient justification for the amount requested;

**Criterion A.3**: Although the various activities are clearly identified, more detailed information about their preparation and organization is required to understand their logical sequence, the connection between them and the appropriateness of the activities to meet the identified needs; the priority given to awareness raising and communication actions does not seem to correspond to the main declared objective, namely, to improve capacity building among actors involved in the safeguarding of cultural expressions associated with masks;

**Criterion A.4**: The training of local stakeholders at the government and community level as well as the capacity building of the entity responsible for implementing the project, as a well-established organization in the promotion and safeguarding of masks, have been designed to contribute to the sustainability of the results, particularly to the extent that these actions are a continuation of the efforts already deployed by the State Party;

**Criterion A.5**: The State Party will cover 13 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested; the project will benefit from other contributions that account for 24 per cent of the budget but the sources of those contributions have not been specified;

**Criterion A.6**: Although, according to the title of the request, capacity building is the main objective, half of the proposed activities concern awareness raising and promotion; although strengthening the institutional capacities of the organization responsible for implementing the project or members of the local administration and confessional bodies is an important factor in the success of the project, additional information is required to understand the impact of the project on the capacity of the communities bearing the intangible cultural heritage concerned to practise and transmit it;

**Criterion A.7**: Burkina Faso received International Assistance in the amount of US$262,080 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for a project entitled ‘Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso’; the project, scheduled to end in July 2016, has not yet been closed in accordance with UNESCO regulations;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is sub-national in scope and involves both local and national implementing partners;

**Paragraph 10(b)**: the project forms part of a local cultural cooperation policy supported by the implementing agency, ASAMA, which therefore seems to be able to stimulate similar efforts in the country;

1. Decides to refer the International Assistance request for the project entitled **Capacity-building for the safeguarding of mask expressions in Burkina Faso** to the requesting State and invites it to resubmit a revised request to the Bureau for examination at a forthcoming session;
2. Takes note of the experience of the technical assistance received by the State Party for the revision of this request while expressing regret that this only served to partially redirect its objectives, in order to bring them more into line with the goals of the Convention;
3. Encourages the State Party, should it wish to resubmit the request, to revise the content and approach of the project taking into account the above-mentioned concerns, particularly to ensure the overall coherence of the project and to ensure that the proposed activities meet the targeted objectives (capacity building or awareness raising) as well as to encourage a bottom-up approach by placing communities at the heart of the project and giving them an active role in the design, implementation and monitoring of the activities;
4. Further encourages the State Party to tie future International Assistance requests to the cultural policies in place in the country and to the inventory of intangible cultural heritage drawn up by the Department of Cultural Heritage within the Ministry of Culture and Tourism thanks to support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.2**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01213,
3. Takes note that Cuba has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantanamo**:

As part of a long-term national strategy for the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Cuba, the project aims at identifying, defining and inventorying the intangible cultural heritage present in Guantanamo, the easternmost province of the country. Far from the large urban centres, Guantanamo is one of the least socially and economically developed provinces in the country, hampering communication with and access to many communities compared to other parts of the country. Thus, in spite of several initiatives undertaken by the National Council for Cultural Heritage in relation to the intangible cultural heritage of the province, the information contained in the Council’s Automated Inventory System on Cuban Cultural Heritage about this territory is practically non-existent. This is coupled with a lack of trained personnel, financial resources and the necessary equipment to support communities in carrying out participatory inventories of their intangible cultural heritage. As the implementing organization, the National Council for Cultural Heritage will carry out a series of activities together with the Provincial Centre of Houses of Culture. These will start with an initial meeting to present the project objectives to the provincial administration and civil society and will continue with training in participatory inventory methods and fieldwork in ten municipalities. The project is expected to help assess the degree of viability of a number of local intangible cultural heritage elements and identify appropriate safeguarding measures.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level with the aim of preparing inventories in accordance with Article 2 (b) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Cuba requested an allocation of US$65,744.60 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01213, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: Although the project is part of a national policy and the request was initiated by the organization responsible for its implementation, the National Council for Cultural Heritage, the views of civil society in Guantanamo province were taken into account in the preparation of the request. While the communities concerned will only be identified once the project has started, community leaders from the ten municipalities concerned will be trained in participatory inventory methodologies and community representatives will participate both in field work and in the awareness-raising campaign with educational institutions;

**Criterion A.2**: Although the overall amount requested may be considered appropriate for the implementation of the proposed activities, the detailed costs provided for the awareness-raising campaign (activity 6) do not match the different components of this activity;

**Criterion A.3**: The activities are described in sufficient detail and articulated in a logical sequence. While the planned activities seem likely to produce the expected results at the provincial level at least, the use of the information generated through the inventory work within the awareness-raising campaign should have been further clarified to allow for a better assessment of the relevance of these activities;

**Criterion A.4**: Relying on a network of people trained in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and on equipment purchased during the project, communities in Guantanamo province will be able to continue the inventories initiated during the project and to work on their regular updating with the support of the Provincial Centre for Heritage, whose capacities will have been strengthened. Moreover, the fact that the project is part of a long-term national safeguarding strategy, with a particular emphasis on inventories, provides a reasonable guarantee of its sustainability and ongoing impact;

**Criterion A.5**: The State will share 36 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested;

**Criterion A.6**: The project’s investment in building communities’ capacities to inventory intangible cultural heritage is presented as a first step in the process of empowering communities to safeguard their heritage. The request also seeks to strengthen the capacities of the National Commission for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Provincial Centre for Cultural Heritage, the municipal museums and Houses of Culture in order to produce a critical mass in the province of Guantanamo that can then continue with the efforts initiated during the project;

**Criterion A.7**: Although Cuba has not previously benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, it was one of the three beneficiary countries of a capacity-building programme for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage between 2012 and 2015 funded by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund thanks to a voluntary supplementary contribution from Norway. Work stipulated by contracts with Cuban national counterparts related to this project was carried out in compliance with UNESCO regulations;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves both national implementing partners such as the National Council for Cultural Heritage, the National Commission for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the National Council of Houses of Culture as well as partners at the provincial level such as the Guantanamo Provincial Centre of Cultural Heritage;

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project should make it possible to identify and prioritize safeguarding needs in order to include safeguarding actions in the work plans of institutions responsible at different levels and dedicated budgets;

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Cuba for the project entitled **Identification, definition and inventory of the intangible cultural heritage in the Cuban province of Guantanamo** and grants an amount of US$65,744.60 to the State Party to this end;
2. Invites the State Party to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities that create, maintain and transmit the heritage that the project seeks to inventory in the implementation of all activities, and to put a monitoring mechanism in place through which communities’ concerns and aspirations can be raised during the course of the project;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance. Particular attention should be paid to a detailed work plan and an activity-based budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund which is specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of the expenditures and to allow the actual expenses to be matched directly against the projections;
4. Further invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.3**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01154,
3. Takes note that Guatemala has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Preservation of ancestral knowledge and practices of the Chuj people**:

The project aims to revitalize the ancestral knowledge and practices of the Chuj people in the municipality of San Mateo Ixtatan in the Cuchumatanes Mountain in Guatemala. The use of the Mayan Chuj language through which this intangible cultural heritage is expressed has undergone a serious decline in the past decade due to several processes of acculturation and the emigration of younger generations. This has resulted in a rapid loss of the Chuj people’s cultural traditions, which the project aims to counterbalance through a reading and writing programme, intergenerational exchanges around oral expressions, the geo-referencing of sacred sites and the organization of festivals with primary schools. Implemented by a local non-governmental organization, the Ixtatan Foundation, in partnership with six primary schools and the Mayan Language Academy, the project will promote bilingual and intercultural education while strengthening the role of elders in the transmission of practices and knowledge that are at the heart of the cosmovision of the Chuj people. Assuming that sacred sites and their associated history play an educational role in the same way as schools, their inventory is conceived both as a means of safeguarding the traditional values they embody and of ensuring their registration by the Ministry of Culture for their enhanced safeguarding.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Guatemala requested an allocation of US$24,957.82 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that,from the information provided in file no. 01154, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request refers to the involvement of communities, especially of Chuj community elders, in expressing the needs that led to its preparation. However, it lacks sufficient information both about the mechanisms foreseen to ensure the broad involvement in the implementation and follow-up of the project not only of Chuj community elders but also of other key stakeholders within the community such as teachers, and about how their perspectives and aspirations will be integrated into the management of the project;

**Criterion A.2**: Due to the inclusion of a number of expenses whose relevance to the proposed activities is not demonstrated (fees for Marimba players, computer equipment, etc.) and to a number of calculation errors, the request does not demonstrate the appropriateness of the amount requested. The costs need to be more detailed, avoiding lump sums wherever possible, which may not provide a sufficient justification for the planned expenditures;

**Criterion A.3**: The request lacks sufficient information on the links between the different activities proposed and presents them as a list of isolated and uncoordinated initiatives. Due to inconsistencies between the description of the activities and the proposed budget and timetable, it is unclear how each activity could build on the results of preceding activities, such as how the reading and writing programme could feed on the information gathered either through the inventory of sacred places or through exchanges with community elders. In the absence of a minimal description of the ancestral knowledge and practices of the Chuj people that the project aims to safeguard, the relevance of focusing on the teaching of the Chuj language to guarantee the viability of this element of heritage is not clearly demonstrated;

**Criterion A.4**: Although the project’s potential to have lasting results could be expected to be achieved through the integration of intangible cultural heritage into formal and informal education settings, the request does not provide sufficient information on how the educational staff or the elders involved in the project may be supported in continuing their efforts beyond the end of the project. On the contrary, the request suggests that the sustainability of the project depends on a partner, the Maya Language Academy, whose role is not clearly described, and on its involvement in an annual but occasional activity, namely the Intangible Cultural Heritage Chuj Festival;

**Criterion A.5**: The Ixtatan Foundation will cover 26 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested. Although the request states that the State Party will also cover 7 per cent of the budget, no partnership with government institutions is mentioned;

**Criterion A.6**: The request is intended to better equip Chuj literature promoters, teachers, young people, elders and the Ixtatan Foundation to safeguard and enhance the role of the ancestral knowledge and practices of the Chuj people. However, the proposed activities are not sufficiently described to demonstrate that they will have a lasting impact on the capacities of this wide range of actors to effectively ensure the viability of the heritage conveyed by the Chuj language;

**Criterion A.7**: Guatemala benefited from preparatory assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to prepare a nomination for the Nan Pa’ch ceremony, inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2013. Guatemala also received technical assistance in 2014 for the preparation of an International Assistance request for a project tentatively entitled ‘Support the protection and dissemination of knowledge of the Maya-Mam people of the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos, Guatemala’; however, the State Party did not submit a request after receiving this technical support; Guatemala currently benefits from an 18-month capacity-building project funded by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund thanks to a voluntary supplementary contribution from Azerbaijan; the project is still ongoing;

**Consideration 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves both local partners such as the six primary schools of San Mateo Ixtatan and national partners such as the Maya Language Academy;

**Consideration 10(b)**: Although the Ministries of Culture and Education are not involved in the project, the request expects to attract their interest through the results achieved;

1. Decides to refer the International Assistance request for the project entitled **Preservation of ancestral knowledge and practices of the Chuj people** to the requesting State and invites it to submit a revised request to the Bureau for examination at a forthcoming session;
2. Recognizes the challenges of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage whose transmission depends on endangered languages and welcomes the commitment of the State Party to ensure, within its educational systems, the recognition of the role of intangible cultural heritage in transmitting values and life skills;
3. Encourages the State Party, if it wishes to resubmit its request, to revise the content of the project taking into account the above-mentioned concerns and to ensure the consistency of the activities proposed, the timetable and the budget in order to adequately demonstrate the relevance and feasibility of the project;
4. Further encourages the State Party to take advantage of ongoing capacity-building activities in the country to review the request, if it so wishes, in close cooperation with the local stakeholders concerned.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.4**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01307,
3. Takes note that Morocco has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Revitalization of female chants in Taroudant**:

This project aims to safeguard the female chants of Taroudant in the medina of Taroudant, a city situated in the south-west of the High Atlas mountains in Morocco. Practised by women's music troupes during social events, chants not only enliven gatherings of women but, more broadly, convey values that all communities in the region of the western High Atlas mountains recognize as being part of their identities. The practice is in decline because young women are being attracted to more modern musical forms and because of lifestyle changes. The Bhayer Dalya Association brings together women still practising these chants and has started work to revitalize the tradition among the communities concerned. This project aims to support this effort through awareness raising, capacity building and safeguarding and revitalization activities based on widespread participation among communities. The project involves, in particular, drawing up an inventory of the practice of chanting by young women trained in participatory inventory techniques; creating new groups of women trained both in chanting and in the transmission of those chants as well as a federation of troupes; purchasing the necessary equipment to practise the tradition (costumes and musical instruments); creating and disseminating audiovisual products about the chants and about the revitalization process; and organizing a small-scale festival. Based on a strong partnership between institutional stakeholders and civil society at all levels - Ministry of Culture, local authorities, Ibn Zohr University and civil society associations - the implementation of the various activities should take place in a concerted fashion.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Morocco requested an allocation of US$70,440 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01307, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: An association representing the groups practising the chants and specifically created with the aim of revitalizing female songs in Taroudant is behind this request and has ensured the full participation of communities in the drafting of the request; the request also provides a detailed description of all of the communities concerned, the role of their various members and their close involvement in all the proposed activities, including the monitoring and evaluation of those activities;

**Criterion A.2**: Although the total amount of the assistance requested and the budget per activity seem appropriate to the scope of the project and to the desired results, the level of detail provided for certain expenditure items is not sufficient to determine whether all the amounts budgeted for are justified;

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are described in detail and presented in a logical sequence, covering awareness raising through an information and consultation day, the publishing of communication media and the creation of a documentary on the revitalization process, capacity building for young learners as well as for experienced practitioners in the principles of the Convention and in inventory techniques, safeguarding and revitalization actions, the creation and formation of new troupes and support for their coordination and promotion;

**Criterion A.4**: Since the desired results form part of a long-term strategy already initiated by the association that will implement the project, they will probably continue after the assistance has ended: the creation of a federation of active troupes and the emphasis placed on young women in communities and on their training are ways of ensuring lasting transmission and the ability of communities to plan safeguarding measures appropriate to their cultural heritage;

**Criterion A.5**: The State will contribute 14 per cent of the total budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested;

**Criterion A.6**: Capacity building will principally benefit members of the community, notably young women; their capacities will be strengthened at various levels, firstly through gaining awareness of the management principles specific to intangible cultural heritage, such as participatory inventories, and, secondly, through the revitalization of the practice and training on the methods for transmission of chants; furthermore, the project will help to increase the project management capabilities of local associations;

**Criterion A.7**: Morocco has implemented a preparatory assistance financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to submit a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, with a view to possible inscription in 2017; Morocco has carried out the works in observance of the Terms of Reference of the contract, in compliance with UNESCO regulations; Morocco is also one of three beneficiary countries of a capacity-building programme for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, in progress since 2013, financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund thanks to additional voluntary contributions from Norway and the Government of Catalonia (Spain);

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project has a local scope and involves very well-structured cooperation between the associations representing local communities and the Ministry of Culture, local authorities and universities;

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The diversity of the partners involved in the implementation of the project will allow technical contributions to come from various sources - the Ministry of Culture will mobilize its services to raise awareness of the principles of the Convention, researchers from Ibn Zohr University will contribute to strategic policies - as well as enabling a multiplying effect among the civil society partners involved in the project who will be better equipped to develop similar safeguarding projects;

1. Approves Morocco's International Assistance request for the project entitled **Revitalization of female chants in Taroudant**, and grants an amount of US$70,440 to the State Party to this end;
2. Emphasizes with satisfaction the central role given to communities in the project, both in terms of their participation in the preparation of the request and in terms of the implementation of the activities, as well as the well-structured involvement of a broad spectrum of institutional partners and civil society, whose cooperation in the implementation of the project seems to guarantee lasting results and to stimulate similar efforts after the project;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the detailed work plan and the activity-based budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of the expenditures and to allow the actual expenses to be matched directly against the projections;
4. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.5**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01252,
3. Takes note that the Federated States of Micronesia have requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Creating an ICH inventory database of traditional celestial navigation skills in Yap, Micronesia**:

Due to improved accessibility to Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and recent trends in youth migration, the number of traditional navigators in one of the island States in the Federated States of Micronesia, Yap, with the ability and knowledge to sail canoes across great distances using only their naturally surroundings to guide them is very small. The project therefore seeks to identify and localize master navigators, called ‘pwo’, in the main island and eight outer islands (‘atolls’) through fieldwork, interviews with tradition bearers and the subsequent creation of a database compiling information about their status and location, as well as about existing schools of traditional navigation. The creation of this database is expected to facilitate the mobilization of funding for capacity-building programmes and thus foster the revitalization of navigation knowledge and skills. The project intends to strengthen the capacities of individuals from the various communities concerned to identify and collect data about tradition bearers and their apprentices. In addition, it aims to contribute to the design and implementation of future training programmes and to highlight the need to revitalize these practices for the survival of local communities, without relying on the costly import of natural resources. The project will be implemented by the Yap Historic Preservation Office in consultation with two traditional island councils, which respectively represent communities from the main island and from outer islands.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that the Federated States of Micronesia requested an allocation of US$23,117 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01252, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: Although the request refers to the involvement of communities in several activities, in particular as field workers and translators or as audience members in preliminary consultation meetings with traditional island councils, whose recommendations will be acknowledged and taken into account in the implementation of the activities, community participation is mainly presented theoretically as research protocols. Additional information is therefore required on the plan that the Yap Historic Preservation Office intends to coordinate on the best approach to engage communities in order to demonstrate that the participation of the specific communities whose heritage is targeted by the project will be as broad as possible in each and every proposed activity, including follow-up and evaluation. Additional information is also needed to demonstrate that the request has emerged, to some extent, from needs identified by traditional celestial navigators;

**Criterion A.2**: In addition to including three activities without any budgetary provision, the budget is not presented in a sufficiently clear, comprehensive and accurate manner; inconsistencies are noted in the amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund; and a more detailed and comprehensive budget is needed to demonstrate the appropriateness of the amount requested, including for the costs to be covered by non-governmental resources which represent 4 per cent of the project budget;

**Criterion A.3**: Although the request includes a series of well-structured activities that are presented in a logical sequence from the establishment of a project team, to preliminary consultation meetings with traditional island councils, fieldwork and data collection, the activities seem to focus mainly on the identification of living human resources while also referring to another stage – to be funded by another source – namely, the inventory of skills related to traditional navigation, for which no budget has been allocated. Additional information is therefore required to clarify the results that the project aims to achieve before its completion, the modalities of the inventory process and how it relates to the safeguarding of the heritage which it aims to identify and document;

**Criterion A.4**: In the absence of clarity as to the intended results of the project, their sustainability cannot be clearly demonstrated. The project’s focus on the identification of tradition bearers, considered as ‘living treasures’, and its ambiguity as to how it would lead to inventory work on navigation knowledge and skills make it difficult to ascertain whether the identification of master navigators is only a step in a larger safeguarding plan and whether the project can therefore have lasting results;

**Criterion A.5**: 17 per cent of the total budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested will be covered by the State Party, while 41 per cent is to be provided by an undefined funding source;

**Criterion A.6**: Although the project does not include any specific capacity-building component, its implementation is expected to build the data collection and organizational capacities of the individuals involved, as well as their capacity to update the database of the master navigators. However, since information gathering and the creation of the database is not placed within the wider context of safeguarding navigation knowledge and skills, additional information is needed to demonstrate that the strengthening of capacities will directly impact the safeguarding of the practices concerned;

**Criterion A.7**: The Federated States of Micronesia has never implemented any activities financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and will be implemented by national and local implementing partners;

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The interest that the project hopes to arouse around the linkages between intangible cultural heritage and environmental sustainability may stimulate further financial support from bilateral development agencies, development banks or public and private foundations. In addition, the project has the potential to be replicated in other regions of the requesting State and may inspire other Small Island Developing States;

1. Decides to refer the International Assistance request from the Federated States of Micronesia for the project entitled **Creating an ICH inventory database of traditional celestial navigation skills in Yap, Micronesia** to the requesting State and invites it to submit a revised request to the Bureau for examination at a forthcoming session;
2. Recognizes the specific relationship of human settlements to the land and sea in Small Islands Developing States and the potential of their intangible cultural heritage to drive sustainable development and appreciates the initiative of the State Party to call on the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to improve the social and economic conditions of communities, while respecting and promoting harmony with their natural environment, through the safeguarding of traditional celestial navigation skills;
3. Encourages the State Party, should it wish to resubmit the request, to revise the content of the project taking into account the above-mentioned concerns as well as those raised in the Secretariat’s technical assessment, particularly in order to better align the project with the overall purpose of the International Assistance provided by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund to support States in their efforts to ensure the viability of intangible cultural heritage;
4. Further encourages the State Party, should it wish to resubmit the request, to ensure its overall coherence by avoiding inconsistencies between the proposed activities, timetable and budget and to give full attention to the development of a rigorous and transparent budget providing a sufficient justification of the planned expenditures.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.6**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 00977,
3. Takes note that Nigeria has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Safeguarding the intangible traditions of Kwagh-Hir (Tiv puppetry theatre) in Nigeria through comprehensive documentation:**

Kwagh-Hir is a form of puppetry theatre traditionally performed in Tiv communities in the state of Benue, in the mid-belt region of Nigeria. It provides secular entertainment, education and socialization through the enactment of past and contemporary events by performers using puppets and masquerades. At present, however, only older speakers have knowledge of the main historical narratives and legends. The aim of the project, which will be implemented by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, is therefore to safeguard and reinvigorate Kwagh-Hir, and in so doing help to reinforce the cultural identity of Tiv people and revive the intergenerational transmission of their folk arts, including Tiv craftsmanship, moral teachings, beliefs, customs and behaviours. To this end, the project would organize meetings with clan heads of the various community theatre groups, in order to generate new opportunities for Kwagh-Hir performances. This would necessitate the organization of rehearsals for the orchestra and performers, and the production of props, costumes and other cultural artefacts. The project would also produce audiovisual materials to document historical and anthropological narrations related to Kwagh-Hir and organize an awareness-raising workshop, which will bring together young Tiv generations and their elders around discussions about the importance of safeguarding and transmitting Kwagh-Hir.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Nigeria requested an allocation of US$95,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 00977, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The participation of all the Kwagh-Hir practitioners – men and women artisans, cultural historians, poets, arrangers, scriptwriters and choreographers – is described in very general terms without a clear description of their respective roles in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the project; their actual involvement seems to be more declarative and top-down with professionals hired to supervise them; the request does not provide any information about the participation of communities in the preparation of the request; on the contrary, their participation is to be addressed during the first project activity, whereas the request should already provide sufficient evidence of a prior consultation process during which the mechanisms for fully engaging communities in all stages of the project should have been discussed;

**Criterion A.2**: Although the presentation of the budget is generally clear, the appropriateness of the amount requested cannot readily be determined in the absence of a detailed description of the planned activities. Moreover, the number of discrepancies in the budget in relation to the activities and their timetable, the absence of budget allocations for some major components such as the production of Kwagh-Hir performances, the disproportionality of certain costs such as recurrent costs for hospitality and stationery and the lack of detail in the calculations of a number of lump sums make it impossible to conclude that the requested amount is appropriate;

**Criterion A.3**: In the absence of a clear definition and articulation of the project’s objectives and of the proposed activities, the feasibility of the project cannot be justified; the activities are not well articulated or sufficiently detailed to demonstrate their ability to achieve the ambitious expected results; the feasibility of the proposed activities is also challenged by the lack of information on the modalities and mechanisms of implementation and on the respective responsibilities of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture and its partners; and the low level of community involvement in the design of the proposed activities as well as their rather passive role in the implementation of the project make it difficult to determine how the activities may effectively contribute to creating an environment that enables Tiv communities to continue to practise and transmit Kwagh-Hir;

**Criterion A.4**: The project’s potential with respect to sustainability seems to rely on the accessibility of the documented information mainly for research and educational purposes; although the project implies that digital documentation could lead to the inclusion of the Kwagh-Hir practice in the educational curriculum and increase its accessibility to a wider public, there is no precise explanation of the future use of the proposed documentation and how it will actually contribute to the desired revitalization of the practice;

**Criterion A.5**: The State will share 43 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which the International Assistance is requested;

**Criterion A.6**: The request does not sufficiently demonstrate how the capacities of the various actors involved in the performance of Kwagh-Hir to continue their practice will be strengthened by the end of the project; though welcome, access to documentation on Kwagh-Hir and its history or to the materials needed for theatrical productions is not sufficient to demonstrate capacity-building in terms of the viability of the practices and its related traditions;

**Criterion A.7**: Although Nigeria has not previously benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, since 2014 it has benefitted from financial assistance under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage for a project entitled ‘Support to the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention in Nigeria’; the work stipulated by the contracts established with the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture related to this project was carried out in compliance with UNESCO regulations;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves national local implementing partners;

**Paragraph 10(b):** Although the Benue State Art Council is said to be ready to sponsor Kwagh-Hir within its annual budget appropriation, possible future assistance is referred to in a vague manner; the request also indicates the possibility of attracting funding from private investors for commercial profitability, which may give rise to the risk of the over-commercialization of Kwagh-Hir as well as concerns about distorting its meaning and purpose for its practitioners;

1. Decides not to approve the International Assistance request from Nigeria for **Safeguarding the intangible traditions of Kwagh-Hir (Tiv puppetry theatre) in Nigeria through comprehensive documentation**;
2. Recalls that the purpose of the assistance provided to State Parties from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund is to support them in their efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage as defined in Articles 3 and 2 of the Convention respectively, and that, therefore, the continued practice and transmission of that heritage cannot be overshadowed by other objectives, as legitimate as these may be;
3. Recognizes that the safeguarding measures proposed should aim to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned and, while noting the absence of greater involvement on the part of communities and practitioners in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the request, further recalls that these safeguarding measures should fully reflect the aspirations and wishes of communities and practitioners as active participants and emphasize the reinforcement of the capacities of communities concerned with a view to continuing their safeguarding efforts in the future;
4. Echoes Decision 7.COM 10.6 to recall that International Assistance requests need to demonstrate a rigorous and clear correspondence between the overall objectives and the proposed activities, budget and timetable of the project and provide clear and transparent details through the presentation of an accurate and coherent budget.

**DECISION 12.COM 2.BUR 4.7**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/4, as well as International Assistance request no. 01305,
3. Takes note that Zimbabwe has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Inventory of indigenous knowledge holders, knowledge and practices in traditional medicine in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe**:

In line with the increased attention paid by the Government of Zimbabwe to indigenous knowledge as a valuable resource in the field of healthcare, environment protection and cultural heritage preservation, the project aims to conduct an inventory of indigenous knowledge holders, knowledge and practices relating to traditional medicine in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe. Designed as a pilot programme at the provincial level forming part of a larger inventory programme at the national level, the project intends to develop a database of traditional health practitioners in order to identify the population from which indigenous knowledge relating to traditional medicine can be harnessed. The Department of Nanotechnology Programme in the Ministry of Higher, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology will coordinate the implementation of the project. The planned activities include awareness-raising meetings with traditional health practitioners and community leaders to raise awareness of the value of their cultural heritage and its safeguarding, the purchase of equipment to support the documentation process, training for relevant stakeholders on documentation, field interviews with traditional health practitioners and the documentation of their knowledge and practices, data compilation and analysis in order to prepare an inventory report and the establishment of a knowledge management system for traditional medicine in Zimbabwe. The project is also expected to contribute to raising awareness among traditional health practitioners about the Convention and to better equip them to safeguard indigenous knowledge and technologies.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Zimbabwe requested an allocation of US$99,714 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that,from the information provided in file no. 01305, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance set out in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: Although the participation of traditional health practitioners is anticipated at different stages of the project (through field interviews, data analysis, awareness-raising meetings on the Convention, etc.), the mechanisms for ensuring their widest possible participation in the implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the proposed activities are not demonstrated; sometimes presented as trained interviewers and sometimes as mere passive providers of information and consent, the request remains ambiguous about the relative role of traditional health practitioners in the implementation of the project, particularly concerning their possible control over the use of the information they may accept to provide; the vague reference to traditional health practitioners and community leaders as well as the lack of clarity about the role of the Network for Traditional Medicine Practitioners, which is supposed to represent the traditional health practitioners, makes it impossible to clearly discern the participation of the latter in the project; in the absence of any information on how the request responds, to some extent, to the needs identified by the traditional health practitioners themselves, their own relation to their knowledge and practices also seems to be neglected in favour of the establishment of a knowledge management system for traditional medicine responding to national priorities;

**Criterion A.2**: The amount requested cannot be considered appropriate since the budget does not fully correspond to the planned activities and timetable; certain costs are not included, even though these are major components of the project such as the documentation of indigenous traditional medicine knowledge and practices. Moreover, a number of lump sums are not budgeted in enough detail to provide a sufficient justification of the planned expenditures;

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are not presented in a logical sequence; for example, the awareness-raising activities for traditional health practitioners are planned to take place after the selection of community members for the inventorying process, which raises questions about the selection criteria; activities more directly related to the safeguarding of traditional medicine as intangible cultural heritage are placed at the beginning and end of the project and the connection with the rest of the project is unclear; there are not enough details about some major activities, particularly concerning the specific methodologies utilized for inventorying training, field work, the documentation and processing of collected data; furthermore, the coordination strategy of the Department of Nanotechnology Programme with the different partners as well as the specific role of each partner, in particular the Network for Traditional Medicine Practitioners, is also insufficiently described in order to be able to conclude on the feasibility and relevance of the proposed activities;

**Criterion A.4**: The sustainability of the project appears to be subject to the use that could be made of the database of traditional health practitioners by other programmes on health issues such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria; the request does not demonstrate how the inventorying work not only of practitioners but also of their knowledge and practices could be continued or regularly updated and how it could contribute, beyond the end of the project, to ensuring the viability of this indigenous knowledge;

**Criterion A.5**: The requesting State will share 26 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which International Assistance is requested;

**Criterion A.6**: While the request makes general statements about the training and awareness-raising activities proposed for traditional health practitioners and communities, it does not demonstrate how they will benefit from these activities to continue their own safeguarding efforts in the future; capacity-building efforts in the project are essentially aimed at the collection of data and the establishment of a knowledge management system of traditional medicine, while the strengthening of traditional health practitioners’ capacities to identify, research, document, promote and transmit their knowledge and practices is hardly addressed; training on inventorying is an important project component, yet it is insufficiently described and the practitioners themselves are not at the core of the knowledge transfer;

**Criterion A.7**: Zimbabwe has been a beneficiary of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund twice for the projects entitled ‘Manyanga Misumo Protocol (2011; US$12,000), carried out by the Manyanga Traditional Custodians, and Safeguarding cultural heritage aspects’ (2011-2012; US$25,000), implemented by the National Archives of Zimbabwe; the work stipulated by the contracts related to these projects was carried out in compliance with UNESCO regulations. Zimbabwe also received technical assistance in 2017 for the preparation of two International Assistance requests for two projects tentatively entitled ‘Awareness raising of rural councillors on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’ and ‘Inter-generational transmission of performing arts heritage of communities in Bulawayo’;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and involves both national and local implementing partners;

**Paragraph 10(b)**: Possible future assistance from other sources is addressed solely in terms of the utilization of the information generated by the project while the request does not explain how it could stimulate further contributions to support the viability of the knowledge and practices concerned;

1. Decides not to approve the International Assistance request from Zimbabwe for the **Inventory of indigenous knowledge holders, knowledge and practices in traditional medicine in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe**;
2. Recalls that the purpose of the assistance provided to State Parties from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund is to support them in their efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage as defined in Articles 3 and 2 of the Convention, respectively, and that, therefore, the continued practice and transmission of that heritage cannot be overshadowed by other objectives, as legitimate as these may be;
3. Recognizes that, in line with the Convention and the Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, the aim of inventorying should be to ensure the viability of the intangible cultural heritage concerned, and, while noting the absence of an active role on the part of traditional health practitioners as key actors and main beneficiaries of the request, further recalls that inventorying should be undertaken with the widest possible participation of the communities that create, maintain and transmit such heritage and that customary practices governing access to such heritage should be fully respected even where these may limit broader public access;
4. Reminds the State Party that International Assistance requests need to demonstrate a rigorous and clear correspondence between the overall objectives and the proposed activities, budget and timetable of the project and provide clear and transparent details through the presentation of an accurate and coherent budget.