**Overview and rationale**

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| **Indicator** | **7. Extent to which inventories reflect the diversity of ICH and contribute to safeguarding** | |
| **Assessment factors** | This indicator is assessed on the basis of four country-level factors monitored and reported by each State Party: | |
| * 1. One or more inventorying systems oriented towards safeguarding and reflecting the diversity of ICH have been established or revised since ratification. | Articles 11 and 12  OD 1, OD 2 |
| * 1. Specialized inventories and/or inventories of various scopes reflect diversity and contribute to safeguarding. | Article 12 |
| * 1. Existing inventory or inventories have been updated during the reporting period, in particular to reflect the current viability of elements included. | Article 12  OD 1, OD 2 |
| * 1. Access to ICH inventories is facilitated, while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of ICH, and they are utilized to strengthen safeguarding. | Article 13(d)(ii)  OD 85 |
| **Relation with SDGs and other indicators** | **Sustainable Development Goals:** In its concern for public access to ICH inventories, the present indicator supports SDG Target 16.10: ‘ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.’ Like the other indicators, it also supports SGD Target 11.4, ‘strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.’  **Relation to other indicators:** Indicators 7 and 8 concern inventorying, while Indicators 9 and 10 consider research and documentation, and they all interact because inventorying typically includes a research dimension and results in one or several forms of documentation. Here the focus is on the products of inventorying, the inventories themselves, and how they are used to contribute to safeguarding. Indicator 8 focuses on the inventorying process and its inclusiveness. Indicator 9 expands the scope to include other forms of research that may take place outside of inventorying, while Indicator 10 complements Assessment Factor 7.4 in its attention to accessibility of research findings other than inventories. | |
| **Rationale for action** | Inventorying is primary among the obligations of each State Party, addressed in the requirement of Article 11(b) that a State Party ‘identify and define the various elements of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations’ and further detailed in Article 12.1’s specification that ‘To ensure identification with a view to safeguarding, each State Party shall draw up, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory. These inventories shall be regularly updated.’ States Parties shall further endeavour to ensure access while respecting customary practices governing such access (Article 13(d)(ii)). | |
| **Key terms** | * Inventory * Diversity (of ICH and its practitioners) * Viability * Elements of ICH * Customary practices * Domains (of ICH) * Access * Ordering principles * Criteria for inclusion * Specialized inventories | |

**Specific guidance on monitoring and periodic reporting**

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| **Benefits of monitoring** | Beyond their general requirement to report on ‘the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken for the implementation of this Convention’ (Article 29), States Parties are specifically asked to ‘provide relevant information on [their] inventories’ (Article 12.2). Monitoring can help a State Party to determine whether it is meeting its mandatory responsibility in the area of inventorying and whether it has updated its inventory(ies) during the reporting period. Such monitoring can also reveal whether there are additional possibilities for the State Party to strengthen its inventorying through the development of specialized inventories or those of various scope. Monitoring at the global level can identify good practices, particularly in the utilization of inventories to strengthen safeguarding, and can point to opportunities for cooperation and technical assistance between States. |
| **Data sources and collection** | In many countries, the Ministry of Culture or other competent body is responsible for carrying out inventorying or coordinating inventorying efforts carried out by others. It is likely they have an up-to-date overview of inventorying and the status of updating. Given that inclusion on an inventory is a prerequisite for an element to be nominated to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, if the State Party takes part in those nomination processes it will also have ready access to information on inventorying. Previously submitted periodic reports may also contain valuable information concerning inventories, in particular for elements already inscribed on the Lists of the Convention. If the State has a consultative body or coordination mechanism, it would be a source for current information about inventorying efforts carried out by specialized institutions or at the local level.  **Possible data sources**   * Website of the Ministry of Culture or other competent body responsible for inventorying * Website of specialized institutions involved in inventorying * Nomination files prepared for submission to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List * Previous reports on the implementation of the Convention and on the status of elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List and Representative List * Public access policies and regulations of archival institutions or other holders of inventory information |