



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH

Le 18 JAN. 2017

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REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2017
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2017

File may be downloaded at:
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Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.

الامانة السورية للتنمية

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

Syria Trust for Development

A.1.c. Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated on all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)

NGO-90251

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone, e-mail address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Syria Trust for Development

Address: 24 Alexandria Street, East Mazzeh, PO Box 2783, Damascus, Syria

Telephone number: +963 11 6113758

E-mail address: info@syriatrust.sy

Website: www.syriatrust.sy -https://www.facebook.com/SyriaTrust/

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr
Family name: KALLAS
Given name: Fares
Institution/position: Syria Trust for Development - Secretary General
Address: 24 Alexandria Street, East Mazzeh, PO Box 2783, Damascus, Syria
Telephone number: +963116113758 - +963944666633
E-mail address: f.kallas@syriatrust.sy
Other relevant information: fkallas@gmail.com

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, so indicate. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding ICH (Article 13 and OD 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.

Not to exceed 250 words

Syria has been a signatory to the Convention since 2003. The main state body concerned with ICH is the Ministry of Culture. Syria Trust for Development (Trust) is a national development NGO originating in 2001 with a strong focus on community development, non-formal education and cultural heritage. Since 2008, the Trust has led the advocacy for ICH within Syria, recognising how much this contributes to the richness of Syria's national identity, creates opportunities for economic and social empowerment, and represents a living link to the country's millennia of heritage and patrimony. The Trust was the first NGO to be invited to join the UNESCO National Committee in Syria in January 2015, and it remains the only NGO member of this body. The Trust has effectively lobbied the Syrian government for the establishment of a dedicated commission for Intangible Cultural Heritage, which on 23rd October, 2016 led to

¹. In case your organization operates in several States, please clearly indicate which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

establishing a commission mandated with ICH, the National High Commission for Intangible Cultural Heritage under resolution #2484, with the Trust being a founding member. These memberships place the Trust in the important position of a direct interface between local communities who are the owners, custodians and participants of ICH, and the government. As a member of the two mentioned committees, the Trust has participated in drafting and scrutinising both the Syrian Tangible Cultural Heritage Law and the Intangible Cultural Heritage Law as the legal framework for the preservation and management of TCH and ICH in Syria. The schedule for this legislation has been affected by the current crisis, but it is now in its final stages, and passage into Syrian law is expected in the next two years. On 3rd, June, 2016 the Trust also held a workshop attended by several government and non-government institutions to discuss the needed legal framework for ICH, and on 5th Dec, 2016 was appointed by the Syrian Ministry of Tourism as the Chair of a committee that will lead the drafting of a law to safeguard cultural handicrafts, alongside several government ministries and civil unions.

B.2. *Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training and documentation of intangible cultural heritage (OD 154).*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust is recognised as the leading non-governmental body in Syria in ICH matters, supporting (DGAM) - the Syrian Directorate General for Antiquities and Museums in the field. As a full member of the National UNESCO Committee in Syria, the Trust cooperates on a regular basis with the seven government Ministries represented in the committee, predominantly those of Culture, Education and Local Administration. At the local level, the Trust has maintained strong cooperation with all 14 of Syria's governorates, both as an advisory body and a partner in the implementation of programmes, since 2001. In 2012 the Trust formed a joint venture with the National Institute for Administration and Management in an Applied Research project for the management of Syrian Cultural Heritage and held capacity building trainings for the Directorate of Folklore, the Syrian state authority on ICH, to ensure the integration of the Convention in their cultural heritage safeguarding projects. This included specific courses on: ICH and TCH management; understanding the UNESCO Convention; and working with communities on the ground to develop greater awareness and appreciation of local ICH. The Trust has a formal joint venture with the Library Department at the University of Damascus through which volunteer students service the Trust's ICH website (see B5) and are trained to track, document and archive ICH elements submitted by owners and communities. The Trust has an informal collaborative agreement with the Languages Department of the University of Damascus regarding the study and preservation of old Syrian languages, including Aramaic. The Trust has conducted a series of workshops for staff of government institutions including the DGAM on the relationship between ICH and Syria's historic monuments, the latest on 23rd April, 2016. At the international level, the Trust's Secretary General is an ICH expert and official delegate to attend UNESCO meetings and conference related to ICH.

B.3. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust regularly provides information for the Periodic Report both about its own activities and those conducted in partnership with governmental and non-governmental partners. In its capacity as a UNESCO-accredited organisation, the Trust plays an expert advisory role in the government's drafting of plans, and reports on ICH. Employing its extensive first-hand experience in the field, the Trust has emphasised the representation and interests of local communities, and contributed to shaping the vision of the National Committee as a whole. Particularly during the current conflict, in which the widespread displacement of communities poses exceptional risk to the preservation of ICH, the Trust is also able to expand its own knowledge pool with information supplied by many other smaller NGOs working in the field with which it has built strong relationships.

As well as regularly submitting reports and data on ICH-related projects to relevant government bodies for their own submissions, the Trust takes part in trials, workshops, round table

discussions, seminars, and conferences with government and non-government bodies, and reviews the outcomes of these events along with the individual reports of these bodies. In its role as an interface between communities and government bodies regarding ICH, the Trust also keeps communities informed on aspects relevant to the Report.

B.4 *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Best Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust currently assumes a leading role in the nominations of a number of elements to these lists. The Trust has assembled a list of 100 candidate ICH elements, consistent with the definitions of ICH in the 2003 Convention. Of these, 38 have been selected by the ICH Committee for the preparation of their documentation and formal submissions as nominations by the UNESCO National Committee starting in 2017. This will form the nucleus of a new National Inventory for ICH in Syria (the current inventory is out-dated and inconsistent with the Convention's terminology), under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO National Committee.

The documentation of these first 38 elements has been published in Arabic by the Trust in the form of the illustrated book titled 'Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage Volume 1', the translation of this publication into English is available in electronic format. Work by the Trust on Volume 2 of the publication, which will include another batch of ICH elements, is currently underway. This work has involved collaboration with many local communities and bearers and practitioners of ICH elements, the Ministry of Culture and its directorates, and various partner organisations. These include the Syrian Society for Culture and Knowledge, a national NGO established with the support of the Trust- this society has the capacity and tools to access communities in certain parts of Syria, which the Trust cannot.

The Trust also organises training programmes for relevant NGOs on UNESCO accreditations and on the identification and submission of ICH elements, and currently is in the process of submitting for inscription the element of the Damask Rose Festival to the Representative List, and Syrian Shadow Play, Karakoz & Eiwaz, to the Urgent Safeguarding List, all in 2017.

B.5. *Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain in particular how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

In the process of documenting ICH in Syria, the Trust has combined UNESCO's protocols and standards with its own expertise in working with communities who in some cases weren't aware of their intangible cultural heritage as being of national and/or international interest. The Trust has coordinated with and worked alongside local groups and communities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Tartous, Lattakia and Jableh on the identification and documentation of ICH. These teams were instrumental in the collection of the 100 elements of ICH already documented by the Trust.

In 2012, the Trust started building a national network of Syrian cultural and local community groups to produce a cultural map of active and potential partners. The aim of this network is to identify gaps in local and regional data collection, and to ensure that all ICH activities are effectively logged and coordinated. This first outcome was an ICH map for the Wadi Naddara Area in Homs, however the on-going conflict has interfered with these efforts and meant that this initiative is currently on hold.

The Trust has developed an interactive website (www.ich-syr.org) to enable individuals and communities to record and nominate ICH elements. The website is important for the documentation and inventorying of ICH, as it also enables members of the public to attach additional information and supporting illustrative material to existing elements.

The Trust also runs a small network of community centres which constitute the Trust's functional arm in rural districts. These centres give access to remote areas which may not be equipped to use the website, directly involving local communities in the identification and preservation of their

ICH.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Explain in particular how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust's work with local communities promotes ICH as: 1- A vital part of a community's cultural identity, and 2- A source of sustainable income. Programs such as VBI and LOCUS enable individuals to develop local skills and crafts into viable revenue streams, and support their marketing and promotion elsewhere. For example, Syrian Handicrafts, a Trust program preserving traditional craft skills (such as Damascene brocade) and marketing them domestically and internationally, was spun off in 2015 as a successful independent trading entity.

Recognising its symbolic importance to preserving the community's ancient rituals, the Trust organised the restoration of the statue of Virgin Mary to its location overlooking the historic Aramaic-speaking city of Maaloula, after it was destroyed during the conflict. It also organised the return of Maaloula's unique and ancient monastery doors, which had been looted.

The Trust participated in and documented the 'Dajan project' on World Heritage Day in 2013/14 (conflict made 2015 & 2016 impossible), which included traditional cookery from the ancient city of Mari as well as mini bazaars for traditional crafts that promoted existing skills and supported those at risk of disappearing.

The Trust commissioned a national survey and report: The Impact of the Crisis on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Syria. Other publications and studies commissioned by the Trust on ICH include:

- Syrian Intangible Cultural Heritage: Skills Related To Traditional Crafts - a book of photographs documenting Syrian crafts.
- Spiritual Buildings in Damascus: Focusing on the various cultural practices and rituals.
- Shadow Play: Documenting the traditional puppetry characters of Karagoz and Hacivat resulting in the publishing of a 322 page book.
- Syrian Fine Arts: A documentation on Syrian Artists between 1660 and 1959.

In addition to the above, the Trust's ICH website acts as a user-friendly and easily accessible interactive forum where communities and individuals can access information regarding ICH elements and contribute with further information. (www.ich-syr.org)

B.7. Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 and ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular at young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

Explain in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust runs ICH-awareness programs for young people in many areas. The Trust's activities such as Small Artisans, Our Heritage in the Eyes of Our Children, Storytelling and Puppetry, The Silk Road, and Sphinx (a heritage mascot), all encourage young people to appreciate, care for, and experience for themselves aspects of their Syrian ICH. Other participative programs for children include traditional folk music and theatre. The Syrian Handicrafts program includes apprenticeship schemes for young people, through which they are able to develop a career in traditional crafts.

Within communities the Trust provides training workshops on the following: the 2003 Convention; the registering and inventorying of ICH elements; urgent safeguarding of ICH during and after conflicts; and specialised practical training on the management of ICH. Through these methods, the Trust aims to empower communities, and encourage independent initiatives, as well as partnership.

National television programmes on ICH organised by the Trust include: 'Concepts and Definitions', and 'Heritage & Sustainable Development', where discussion centred on the role of the convention in safeguarding this heritage and the contribution of international organisations in protecting ICH in Syria and the rest of world.

The Trust also facilitates, nurtures and partners with many other NGOs in Syria involved with ICH, such as the Syrian Youth Council. It promotes public volunteerism through its own website and social media, and trains and manages volunteer participation.

The Trust organises public celebrations for events to reinforce the importance of the ownership and protection of historical sites and places of memory, such as public events for World Day for Cultural Diversity, and the 2015 World Peace Day, which was carried out under the title of 'Peace for Palmyra'.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, sub-regional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including for example those of category 2 centres for intangible cultural heritage established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at sub-regional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

Not to exceed 250 words

ICH experts at the Trust represented Syria as a partner in the MedLiHer programme, and held a workshop in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the European Commission to create proposals for the practical involvement of local communities in the sustainable development of ICH.

Trust experts also took part in a project involving the Louvre Museum in France to develop concepts of best practice in museum curating, and to re-establish a National Museum and Heritage Site Communication Network in Syria.

The Trust attended the UNESCO-approved conference for NGOs in Barcelona, Spain on 6-12 June 2015, where networks were established between heritage experts and UNESCO accredited NGOs with the aim of applying the Convention and building policies for stronger coordination between partners.

At the November 2014 Rome, Italy conference, the Trust's participation was focused on discussions and proposals for peace-building through culture, in particular through ICH.

The Trust attended the May 2014 International Expert Meeting at UNESCO Headquarters entitled 'Rallying the International Community to Safeguard Syria's Cultural Heritage', which brought together more than 120 experts from 22 countries to share information, devise policies, and improve international cooperation during the conflict and beyond. This resulted in establishing a UNESCO Observatory Office in Beirut, to monitor and assess the state of Syria's cultural heritage. The Trust also took part in the expert meeting in Berlin on 2-4 June, 2016 for the Urgent Safeguarding of Syria's Cultural Heritage, and participated in the 'Creating A Common Future For Mankind And A Renaissance Of Classical Culture' conference at the Schiller Institute in Berlin, while it cooperated with UNICEF on a joint campaign on 'World Day Against Child Labour 2016'.

In pursuit of improved international assistance and cooperation, the Trust continues to provide any required information regarding ICH to national, regional, and international bodies, including records of harm inflicted on ICH in Syria during the crisis.

The Trust has organised training courses for staff and volunteers at the UNESCO Observatory Office in Beirut on the implementation of the Convention, and on preparing national inventory lists.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If yes, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Syria Trust for Development participated in the 9th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Paris on 24 Nov- 28 Nov 2014. During this meeting, an Evaluation Body was elected to evaluate nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding and Representatives lists and Requests for International Assistance, as well as proposals for Best Safeguarding Practices. The Trust was selected as a member of the Evaluation Body as the representative of the V(b) Group of Arab States, merited to the cultural richness of Syria and the dedication and experience of the Trust's cultural experts.

During the meeting, the Trust stressed that despite there being significant challenges at the national and international levels to fulfil the duties that come with the nomination, it considers Intangible Cultural Heritage to be the base for sustainable community development and will place great priority on fulfilling its duties.

In 2010, ICH experts from the Trust attended a meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE, to strengthen Syria's role in the MedLiHer project and its networking with international ICH experts.

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012-2014)? If yes, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

Syria Trust for Development has been a member of the Consultative Body since 2012, based on its work in safeguarding and protecting Syrian heritage and Syrian cultural identity. In 2014 it was appointed as a member of the Evaluation Body. The Trust assisted in the evaluation of 45 files nominated to the Urgent Safeguarding List, the Representative List, and Requests for International Assistance in 2015, and another 51 files in 2016 with the presence of a trained and qualified team.

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

Syria Trust for Development has not yet received requests for any services from the Committee, however, future services provided by the Trust can include the following:

Cultural Heritage management during the conflict- To use its on-the-ground experience and situation familiarity to assist in putting solid plans in place for the safeguarding of ICH which is not only in the interest of the Syrian people but in the interest of the wider international community contributing to the visibility of ICH in general and the importance of its safeguarding.

The 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage can further be employed to serve national strategic goals in the field of cultural heritage through building policies and legislation that help define ICH in accordance with legal frameworks applicable nationally and internationally. The Trust can play an expert advisory role on this subject at the national level due to its close and continuous contact with government bodies and local communities during the crisis, and allow the management of the heritage to become a pillar in peace-building in Syria.

Syria Trust for Development can provide advisory services for the development of nomination files, including assisting countries in crisis situations with registering and rehabilitating heritage sites in the event of destruction, assisting countries that lack institutional structures to gather and provide information concerning ICH, and setting up a technical team for gathering the materials and tools for the above.

The Trust can promote the subject of intellectual property and the importance of its protection especially in times of crisis, with emphasis on developing further research regarding intellectual property relating to ICH, and to strengthen efforts for the establishment of an international registry for the protection of Intellectual Property for Traditional Knowledge and Intangible Cultural Heritage, and various cultures of humanity.

The Trust can also provide technical training services on how to protect ICH in conflicts and emergencies, and on inventorying and documentation, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

E. Capacities of your organization for evaluation of nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff demonstrate a very good command of English or French? If yes, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes, English and French. There are approximately 15 Cultural Heritage staff members employed by Syria Trust for Development, including Intangible Cultural Heritage experts who are fluent in both English and French, as well as being native Arabic speakers.

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust works across the following domains in accordance with the Convention:

- Performing arts: The commissioning, staging and recording of arts and traditional performances such as dance, shadow puppetry and poetry. As well as activity programmes for

children and youth that encourage them to appreciate, practise and sustain many aspects of traditional ICH such as costume, music and traditional art, including shadow puppetry shows and workshops for children (Karakoz & Hacivat), and the 'Prophecy' theatre performance.

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage: The encouragement and documentation of traditions and oral expressions, including storytelling as a creative skill and language as a means for the expression of Intangible Cultural Heritage, such as the 'Documenting Traditional Stories & Storytelling in Syria' publication.

- Traditional craftsmanship: Workshops, classes, and programs to build skills associated with arts and traditional crafts and their transmission, such as the 'Syrian Handicrafts' program.

- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe: Such as co-organising the annual Damask Rose Festival.

- Social practices, rituals and festive events: The documentation and inventorying of social practices, rituals and celebrations and integrating them in national celebrations, such as the annual Ain al Baida Festival in Lattakia, celebrating folk music and theatrical performances.

E.3. Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Trust is experienced and competent in evaluating applications and proposals. It receives an average of 50 such submissions a year in a variety of development areas. The Trust applies a standard two-stage evaluation process, allowing it where necessary to assist applicants (for example rural communities) in making an initial submission more complete, clear and robust before a final assessment. The Trust's own team usually has the expertise to make recommendations and decisions, but in exceptional circumstances it is able to call on expert advisors in various fields to provide a greater depth of analysis.

The Trust applies careful scrutiny and interpretation of each submission, against its own guidelines as well as external criteria and formulae such as the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition, the Trust places great importance on the specifics of each application, the nature and location of the communities involved and the type of the practitioners, as well as their economic, social, and ethnographical status.

The analysis of the submitted documents is always carried out with full transparency and impartiality, placing an emphasis on achieving outcomes that serve a humanitarian objective. Where appropriate single proposals or applications may be combined with others into larger programmes according to their context and purpose, and economies of scale.

In addition to the above, as a member of the Evaluation Committee, the Trust has evaluated nominations for the UNESCO Representative and Urgent Safeguarding lists, as well as Requests for International Assistance.

E.4. Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.

Not to exceed 250 words

Syria Trust for Development is well experienced in drafting texts in both English and French, but also in Arabic, by its own staff working in the Intangible Cultural Heritage field. The Trust has around 10 staff members with experience in drafting synthetic texts in English and French. The familiarity of the Trust's staff members with both languages allows them to deal with complex and specialized texts professionally, allowing them to competently shift from Arabic to the aforementioned languages, and back again.

E.5. Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to extrapolate from local experience to apply it within an international context? Please describe such experience.

Not to exceed 250 words

After working with ICH for several years, Syria Trust for Development has gained extensive experience at an international level, by creating partnerships with regional and international groups, developing networks with international NGOs, and taking part in international events and conferences on the subject of ICH, such as the Barcelona meeting in June 2015, and the November 2014 conference in Rome. In addition to this, the Trust has links with government institutions that have their own international connections and networks related to the safeguarding and protection of ICH.

The Trust is an active member of the National Commission for UNESCO in Syria, and is also connected to the Syrian Arab Republic delegation to UNESCO. As an accredited advisor to UNESCO, the Trust works to utilize its local experiences that act as a launching pad for establishing developing programmes starting from the community base and upwards, in order to arrive at the best safeguarding practices that can be implemented at regional and international levels.

The Trust has been able to utilise its local experiences in an international context at conventions, meetings, and by being selected as a member of the Evaluation Body in 2014. As well as the above, the Trust has an extensive record of working with international NGOs and intergovernmental organisations such as ICCROM, ICOMOS, ESCWA, and AICA, among several others.

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as e.g. funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

Syria Trust for Development is yet to carry out any activities in cooperation with UNESCO, or under its auspices. In 2015, the Trust contacted UNESCO regarding the use of its logo on its ICH related activities but a response was never received. However, the UNESCO National Commission in Syria has recently contacted UNESCO on behalf of the Trust regarding the use of the UNESCO logo for an upcoming cultural activity which the Trust along with several governmental bodies are participating in. We hope to receive a positive response in the near future in order to strengthen our cooperation with UNESCO.

G. Signature

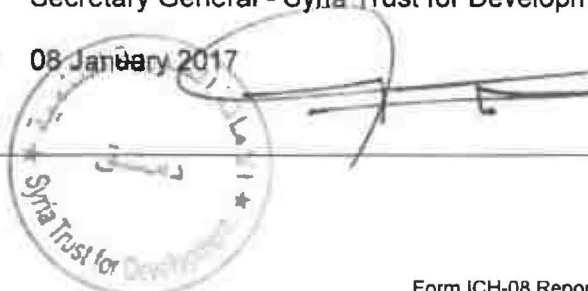
The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Fares N KALLAS

Title: Secretary General - Syria Trust for Development

Date: 08 January 2017

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Syria Trust for Development" around the perimeter and a star in the center. The signature is a stylized, cursive script.