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

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

**Eleventh session**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**28 November to 2 December 2016**

**Item 9.c of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Reports of States Parties on the use of International Assistance
from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**Article 24.3 of the Convention provides that ‘The beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage’. This document covers the reports submitted by States Parties during the period from 1 October 2015 to 30 June 2016, including an overview of the use of the International Assistance mechanism since its establishment.**Decision required:** paragraph 11 |

* + - * 1. Overview of reports
1. Article 24.3 of the Convention provides that ‘The beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.’ Such international financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund is described in Chapter V of the Convention and Chapters I.4 and I.14 of the Operational Directives. This document presents all reports received after the reporting period for the tenth session of the Committee, 1 October 2015 up to 30 June 2016. However, since the time of submission of progress and final reports depends on the specific dates for each project, as agreed between the beneficiary State and UNESCO at the time of establishing the contract governing the assistance, the period covered by each report varies from one report to another.
2. During the reporting period, twenty projects supported with International Assistance were active[[1]](#footnote-1) for a total amount of US$1,684,455.20. The present document includes nine reports submitted by beneficiary States between 1 October 2015 and 30 June 2016. Reports on each of the nine concerned projects are available to download in the language in which they were submitted at the links indicated below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Beneficiarycountry** | **Amount(US$)** | **Period** | **Report** |
| Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda (No. 00326) | Kenya | 126,580.00 | 01/07/201119/12/2014[[2]](#footnote-2) | Final report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=39981)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/traditions-and-practices-associated-with-the-kayas-in-the-sacred-forests-of-the-mijikenda-00326) |
| Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso (No. 00678) | Burkina Faso  | 262,080.00 | 29/03/201301/07/2016 | Pre-final report: [French](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42237)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-burkina-faso-00678) |
| Safeguarding and revitalizing the Mongolian traditional epic (No. 00549) | Mongolia | 89,700.00 | 30/09/201330/06/2016 | Final report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42274)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-revitalizing-the-mongolian-traditional-epic-00549) |
| Taskiwine, Amazigh dance and songs of the western High Atlas (No. 01052)Preparatory Assistance - USL | Morocco | 14,100.00 | 15/12/201430/04/2016 | Final report: [French](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42568) |
| Improving the capacities of intangible cultural heritage related NGOs in Mongolia (No. 00910) | Mongolia | 24,900.00 | 17/04/201531/12/2015 | Final report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=39330)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/improving-the-capacities-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-related-ngos-in-mongolia-00910) |
| Safeguarding the oral traditions and expressions of the Dzao people of Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces of Viet Nam (No. 00599) | Viet Nam | 24,350.00 | 08/07/201530/06/2016 | Final report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42569)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-the-oral-traditions-and-expressions-of-the-dzao-people-of-lao-cai-and-lai-chau-provinces-of-viet-nam-00599) |
| Safeguarding indigenous vernacular architecture and building knowledge in Vanuatu (No. 01214)Emergency Assistance | Vanuatu | 23,908.00 | 10/08/201515/12/2015 | Final report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42455)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-indigenous-vernacular-architecture-and-building-knowledge-in-vanuatu-01214)  |
| Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda (No. 00979) | Uganda | 24,990.00 | 01/09/201531/08/2017 | Progress report: [English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=40189)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-and-promotion-of-bigwala-gourd-trumpet-music-and-dance-of-busoga-kingdom-in-uganda-00979) |
| Documenting and inventorying intangible cultural heritage of the pastoralist Samburu community in northern Kenya: a focus on the region of Mount Kulal biosphere reserve (No. 01024) | Kenya | 24,038.00 | 04/12/201531/05/2016 | Final report:[English](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=42209)[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/documenting-and-inventorying-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-pastoralist-samburu-community-in-northern-kenya-a-focus-on-the-region-of-mount-kulal-biosphere-reserve-01024) |

1. All reports were prepared and submitted using the [ICH-04-Report Form](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ICH-04-Report-EN-20150717.doc)[[3]](#footnote-3) which gave a basis for preparing the information included in the annex to this document.
2. Eleven other projects are ‘active’ although no report was due during the reporting period. The table below provides an overview of these projects, including information on reports to be submitted in the future.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Beneficiarycountry** | **Amount(US$)** | **Period** | **Reporting status** |
| Inventory of intangible cultural heritage in Mali with a view to its urgent safeguarding (No. 01026)Emergency Assistance | Mali | 307,307.00 | 06/12/201302/11/2016 | Final report due in November 2016[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-mali-with-a-view-to-its-urgent-safeguarding-01026) |
| Inventory and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of the Pygmy populations of Gabon (No. 00949) | Gabon | 24,560.00 | 01/09/201528/04/2017 | Final report due in April 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventory-and-promotion-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-of-the-pygmy-populations-of-gabon-00949) |
| Inventory, safeguarding and promoting knowledge of how to manufacture and play Togo's traditional musical instruments (Pilot phase in the Maritime region, south Togo) (No. 00912) | Togo | 24,950.00 | 09/12/201509/12/2016 | Final report due in December 2016[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventory-safeguarding-and-promoting-knowledge-of-how-to-manufacture-and-play-togo-s-traditional-musical-instruments-pilot-phase-in-the-maritime-region-south-togo-00912) |
| Inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in Côte d'Ivoire in view of its urgent safeguarding (No. 01051)Emergency Assistance | Côte d’Ivoire | 299,972.00 | 15/12/201528/03/2018 | Progress report submitted in October 2016[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventory-of-the-intangible-cultural-heritage-present-in-cote-d-ivoire-in-view-of-its-urgent-safeguarding-01051) |
| Safeguarding of Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa proverbs and folktales (No. 01060) | Malawi | 90,533.00 | 30/06/201616/06/2017 | Progress report due in December 2016[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-of-nkhonde-tumbuka-and-chewa-proverbs-and-folktales-01060) |
| Documentation and inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the Republic of the Sudan (a pilot project in Kordufan and Blue Nile regions) (No. 00978) | Sudan | 174,480.00 | 30/06/201631/12/2017 | Progress report due in July 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/documentation-and-inventory-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-the-republic-of-the-sudan-a-pilot-project-in-kordufan-and-blue-nile-regions-00978) |
| Inventorying of intangible cultural heritage elements in Thaba-Bosiu in Lesotho (No. 01118) | Lesotho | 24,998.00 | 03/08/201628/02/2017 | Final report due in February 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventorying-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-elements-in-thaba-bosiu-in-lesotho-01118) |
| Inventorying of the music and dance of the Lozi and Nkoya people of Kaoma District (No. 01217) | Zambia | 24,928.30 | 04/08/201630/06/2017 | Progress report due in October 2016[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventorying-of-the-music-and-dance-of-the-lozi-and-nkoya-people-of-kaoma-district-01217) |
| Safeguarding the knowledge systems associated with traditional Fijian (iTaukei) house (Bure) construction methods in Navala village, Fiji (No. 01121) | Fiji | 25,000.00 | 14/09/201619/09/2017 | Final report due in September 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/safeguarding-the-knowledge-systems-associated-with-traditional-fijian-itaukei-house-bure-construction-methods-in-navala-village-fiji-01121) |
| Promotion of traditional pottery making practices in Eastern Kenya (No. 01021) | Kenya | 23,388.00 | 14/09/201611/12/2017 | Progress report due in July 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/promotion-of-traditional-pottery-making-practices-in-eastern-kenya-01021) |
| Inventorying of proverbs of Lala community of Luano District of Zambia (No. 01216) | Zambia | 24,999.90 | 22/09/201629/09/2017 | Progress report due in February 2017[Dedicated webpage](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/assistances/inventorying-of-proverbs-of-lala-community-of-luano-district-of-zambia-01216) |

1. Among the projects mentioned above, it should be noted that four received technical assistance[[4]](#footnote-4) through the provision of experts suggested by the Secretariat and agreed by the requesting States. This was the case of requests granted to Côte d’Ivoire, Lesotho, Togo and Uganda. Over the reporting period, Albania benefited from technical assistance although, at the time of writing, the resulting request has not yet been submitted to the competent governing body for its examination.
2. Another project was withdrawn by the requesting State after approval by the Bureau, that is the preparatory assistance for elaborating a nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List on ‘Traditional boat-building traditions of the Ivatans of Batanes, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, Manobo of Agusan and Sama-Bajau of Tawi-tawi of the Philippine archipelago’ submitted by Philippines for an amount of US$7,393.00.
	* + - 1. Overview of the International Assistance mechanism
3. Since the establishment of the procedure for examining requests for International Assistance and as at 30 June 2016, 32 States Parties have been granted financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for a total amount of US$2.75 million in support of 54 projects. Although this amount is not insignificant, it represents only 13% of the funds that the General Assembly of States Parties allocated to International Assistance since the establishment of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. While all electoral groups are represented with the exception of Group I, more than half of the requests approved were submitted by States Parties from Electoral Group V(a), Africa, representing US$1.84 million or 66% of the amount of assistance granted, in line with UNESCO’s global priority Africa. It is also to be noted that some States in Africa have received International Assistance several times to finance different projects.
4. The most frequent purpose of granting International Assistance, both in terms of assistance approved and amounts granted, is to support the preparation of inventories of intangible cultural heritage present in the territory of beneficiary States Parties, as provided in Article 20 (b). Except for a brief interruption in 2014, this trend has been constant.
5. Demand for preparatory assistance has declined over the years and no request was received in the past two cycles. In addition, most of the preparatory assistance has been granted for the elaboration of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List with no preparatory assistance granted for the elaboration of proposals for the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices since 2009.
6. The largest number of projects approved (74%) concerned projects with budgets not exceeding US$25,000 (40 in total, of which 19 were for preparatory assistance) and account for 24% of the assistance granted. Although representing only 19% of projects benefiting from International Assistance, the bulk of assistance granted went to support projects with budgets greater than US$100,000, followed by projects eligible to emergency assistance regardless of the requested amount.
7. Even before the sixth General Assembly adopted the amendments to the Operational Directives which increased the ceiling of the assistance examined by the Bureau from US$25,000 to US$100,000, 80% of approved projects (that is 43 projects accounting for 47% of the assistance granted) were examined by the Bureau on the basis of recommendations made by the Secretariat, rather than the Evaluation Body. Leaving aside International Assistance requests that were processed but not approved, the workload of both the Bureau and the Secretariat seems thus considerably greater than that of the Committee (which has approved 11 projects to date) and its evaluation bodies. This imbalance in the workload between the governing bodies of the Convention is expected to increase with the revised Operational Directives. As shown in the above chart, only 7 % of the approved projects were for a budget between US$25,000 and US$100,000. In a conservative hypothesis that this situation continues, the Bureau would be then responsible, at least, for 87% (that is 100% minus 13% representing projects greater than US$100,000) of approved projects accounting for 56% (100% minus 44% representing assistance granted for projects greater than US$100,000) of the assistance granted. A non-negligible increase in the workload of the Secretariat can therefore be expected as well.
8. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 11.COM 9.c

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/16/11.COM/9.c,
2. Recalling Article 24.3 of the Convention
3. Expresses satisfaction that countries from Electoral Group V(a) continue to be the main beneficiaries of International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and encourages countries from other Electoral Groups to consider this mechanism of assistance in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage present in their territory;
4. Thanks beneficiary States for their timely submission of final or progress reports for projects that benefit from International Assistance under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;
5. Appreciates the impact that the assistance brought to the beneficiary States for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage present in their territory and further encourages them to continue to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the results of the projects;
6. Congratulates Morocco for submitting a nomination to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as a result of the preparatory assistance granted by its Bureau;
7. Regrets the non-use of the preparatory assistance mechanism for two consecutive years;
8. Requests the Secretariat to ensure, whenever possible, that contracts established with beneficiary States provide for the submission of final or progress reports, as appropriate, by 30 June so that it may take note of the use made of the assistance provided in a timely manner and invites current and future beneficiary States to respect the deadlines for submission of reports as established under their respective contracts;
9. Acknowledges the need to enhance the human capacities of the Secretariat on a lasting basis in order to provide more sustained support to beneficiary States in the implementation of projects financed by International Assistance and better monitor the general implementation of this mechanism.

**ANNEX**

**Summary information on State Parties’ reports on the use made of
International Assistance (including preparatory assistance)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Kenya** | **US$126,580** | **Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda** (No. 00326) |
| *Granted:* | 2009 ([Decision 4.COM 11.01](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/4.COM/11.01)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 01/07/2011 – 29/01/2016 |
| *Related element:*  | Traditions and practices associated with the Kayas in the sacred forests of the Mijikenda (inscribed in 2009 on the Urgent Safeguarding List)Quadrennial report available at: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=33087>. |

Aiming to empower the Mijikenda people to ensure the viability and transmission of the traditions and practices associated with the sacred Kaya forests of coastal Kenya, the project was led by the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts (former Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture) in cooperation with the National Museums of Kenya through its Coastal Forest Conservation Unit.

Activities included training nine Kaya communities on developing income-generating projects associated with their living heritage; apprenticeships for young people regarding the functioning of the Council of Elders; community based inventorying and updating the national inventory; field visits to the Kayas by more than 400 students during which elders introduced the traditions and practices of the Mijikenda; and organization of intercommunity cultural festivals showcasing the Kaya traditional lifestyle such as their traditional medicine, foodways and handicrafts. Community conservation groups were also trained to sensitize young people on the importance of conserving sacred forests and safeguarding traditions associated with them. The project included communication and awareness-raising activities on Mijikenda traditions and practices through the production and dissemination of 6,000 brochures in Kiswahili and English.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Burkina Faso** | **US$262,080** | **Inventory and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Burkina Faso** (No. 00678) |
| *Granted:* | 2012 ([Decision 7.COM 10.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/7.COM/10.1)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 29/03/2013 – 01/07/2016 (ongoing) |

The objective of this project is to draw-up an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage elements with the ethno-cultural communities of Burkina Faso which will identify their state of viability and ensure their promotion. To this end, the project took place in two phases with a pilot phase targeting two regions which included six communities and a second generalization phase at the national level. It developed a national strategy for inventorying and promoting intangible cultural heritage, raised awareness about the importance of intangible cultural heritage with 35 workshops and broadcast discussions and television and radio spots, strengthened the capacities of the stakeholders involved in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through 9 training workshops in participative inventory techniques, drew-up an inventory of 321 elements while identifying their state of viability, and disseminated the results through a website and publications. The project was delayed by several months due to socio-political events in the country in autumn 2015. The final activities are underway, with a project close planned for the end of 2016.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mongolia** | **US$89,700** | **Safeguarding and revitalizing the Mongolian traditional epic** (No. 00549) |
| *Granted:* | 2012 ([Decision 7.COM 5.BUR](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-12-7.COM_5.BUR-Decisions-EN-Rev._2.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 30/09/2013 – 30/06/2016 |
| *Related element:*  | Mongol Tuuli, Mongolian epic (inscribed in 2009 on the Urgent Safeguarding List)Quadrennial report available at: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/download.php?versionID=33099>. |

Regarded as a living encyclopaedia of the history of the Mongolian people and their oral traditions, the Mongolian traditional epic combines heroism, eulogies, benedictions and spells with myths fairy tales and idiomatic phrases. Owned by nomadic communities in which many had not mastered reading or writing, the Mongolian traditional epic played an irreplaceable role in the transmission of their cultural heritage. Today, the number of epic trainers and learners is decreasing resulting in the gradual disappearance of the Mongol epic and a weakening of the communities’ knowledge transmission system on their culture and history. The project implemented some of the measures included in the safeguarding plan proposed in the nomination with a view to revitalizing the tradition, particularly through enhanced documentation and training young apprentices.

Starting with a field study on the current status of the epic, its repertoire and associated practices, the project trained 25 people, including performers and apprentices. Training centres were set up in schools and theatres with the participation of practitioners and academicians relying on audiovisual recordings to restore forgotten epics. Throughout this period, knowledge acquired by the trainers and apprentices was tested as part of the project’s evaluation processes. In close cooperation, the Centre of Cultural Heritage published a guidebook for epic practitioners on the different techniques of performing epic and traditional modes of transmission. A series of 11 volumes collecting the epic texts as declaimed by different ethnic groups was also published. The project provided an opportunity for culture officers to gain hands-on experience in the identification and documentation of intangible cultural heritage and for practitioners to develop transmission systems appropriate to the current contexts in Mongolia.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Morocco** | **US$14,100** | **Taskiwine, Amazigh dance and songs of the western High Atlas** (No. 01052)Preparatory Assistance |
| *Granted:* | 2014 ([Decision 9.COM 4.BUR 2](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-14-9.COM_4.BUR-Decision.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 15/12/2014 – 30/04/2016 |

The objective of this project was to contribute to revitalizing the Taskiwine, Amazigh dance and songs of the western High Atlas, through the preparation of a nomination for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. More specifically, the project seeks to: involve the communities, especially for drawing up a safeguarding plan and obtaining their consent; include the element on the inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of Morocco and produce the audio-visuals for the nomination file. The specific objectives sought have been reached, thanks mainly to the two consultation meetings with the communities and the different institutional stakeholders, as well as a field visit. Because the first consultation enjoyed widespread participation of the communities and raised many expectations, it was judged necessary to add another year to ensure a successful second consultation. Thus, the communities were able to fully contribute to the preparation of the four-year safeguarding plan (2017 – 2020), the finalization of the inventory and the selection of photos and documentary film to be included in the file. The preparatory work for the nomination lasted three years and many communities, institutions and media rallied for the revitalization of this element. The first safeguarding measures will be implemented in autumn 2016. To finance the safeguarding plan, it is planned to prepare a request for International Assistance in addition to the State’s contribution.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mongolia** | **US$24,900** | **Improving the capacities of intangible cultural heritage related NGOs in Mongolia** (No. 00910) |
| *Granted:* | 2014 ([Decision 9.COM 4.BUR 1.2](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-14-9.COM_4.BUR-Decision.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 17/04/2015 – 31/12/2015 |

The project addressed the need to strengthen the capacities of non-governmental organizations active in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage since so far, similar efforts had focused on government officials. Led by one of these organizations (the Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage, accredited to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee), the project aimed to equip its peers and community-based organizations with the appropriate knowledge to conduct fieldwork and train a group of trainers and culture workers, as well as enhance visibility of non-governmental organizations working in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. A nationwide contest for selecting best practices from non-governmental organizations was organized as a means of attracting a wide range of organizations to the project. At least 200 proposals were received. This initiative revealed more than 30 non-governmental organizations involved in safeguarding activities and, ultimately, to create a network with more than 100 entities.

Eighty representatives from non-governmental organizations received training on implementation of the Convention at the national level during a two-day workshop in Ulaanbaatar. At the workshop, contest winners were invited to present their safeguarding initiatives. A handbook on intangible cultural heritage designed specifically for non-governmental organizations was developed and 500 copies were produced. Creation of the Foundation’s website ([www.ich-ngo.mn](http://www.ich-ngo.mn)) is another project outcome serving as an exchange platform for the network of non-governmental organizations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Viet Nam** | **US$24,350** | **Safeguarding the oral traditions and expressions of the Dzao people of Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces of Viet Nam** (No. 00599) |
| *Granted:* | 2014 ([Decision 9.COM 4.BUR 1.3](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-14-9.COM_4.BUR-Decision.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 08/07/2015 – 30/06/2016 |

The Dzao in Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces live mainly near the northern border with China. With only one or two villagers in each village who can still sing folk songs and speak the traditional language, the oral traditions and expressions of the Dzao people were severely endangered. Folk songs, tales, lullabies, proverbs and riddles were also disappearing due to the advanced age of those who recite them and the work/school environment of young Dzao, where the Vietnamese language prevails. The project aimed at establishing an overview of the current use of the Dzao language and its associated oral traditions through a survey conducted in 30 villages of the two provinces. It also allowed local communities, teachers and practitioners to work together and develop training curricula. Eight classes on Dzao characters and oral expressions were held and 100 practitioners, including many young people and women, were trained to be able to read and understand Dzao and sing several folk songs, from ritual songs and children’s songs to love songs. A CD-ROM was produced containing curricular contents and folk songs, of which 700 copies were distributed in the villages of the provinces. A particularly valuable result was awareness raised on the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, not only in the villages targeted but elsewhere in the Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Vanuatu** | **US$23,908** | **Safeguarding indigenous vernacular architecture and building knowledge in Vanuatu** (No. 01214)Emergency Assistance |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 1.BUR 2.2](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 10/08/2015 – 15/12/2015 |

This project documented the pre- and post- cyclone condition of seven significant traditional nakamals – the traditional meeting places in Vanuatu. These structures were damaged by Cyclone Pam (a category 5 system that crossed the region on 13 March 2015). The project had four main lines of action: preliminary research conducted by two young ni-Vanuatu university students on tangible and intangible aspects of each nakamal; a damage assessment to document their structural condition; an assessment of the risk of loss of the intangible cultural heritage aspects of each structure including the knowledge and skills that are required for building the nakamal; and a final report listing the best safeguarding measures for each of the seven nakamals.

A set of best safeguarding practices was compiled to encourage the revitalization of building skills related to indigenous vernacular architecture in the region to ensure continuation of the existence of the nakamal. Due to staff changeovers at the implementing agency, timeframes for the project were exceeded and community feedback on the findings of the project was possible only in one nakamal. Nevertheless, the State Party plans to continue the effort beyond the project and develop an inventory of nakamals and aspects related to intangible cultural heritage instigated by the project, which should then be updated by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Uganda** | **US$24,990** | **Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda** (No. 00979) |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 1.BUR 1.2](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.doc)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 01/09/2015 – 01/04/2016 (ongoing) |
| *Related element:*  | Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of the Busoga Kingdom in Uganda (inscribed in 2012 on the Urgent Safeguarding List)Quadrennial report to be submitted by 15/12/2016 |

Bigwala music and dance is a cultural practice of the Basoga people from eastern Uganda performed during royal celebrations such as coronations and funerals and, in recent decades, on social occasions. At present, however, there are only two master bearers with skills in Bigwala making, playing and dancing, and their recent attempts at transmission have been frustrated by financial obstacles. Basoga people became very aware that if the two aged masters died before passing Bigwala knowledge and skills to younger generations, an important part of their cultural heritage would disappear. In response to this growing concern, the project aims at strengthening the transmission of knowledge and skills associated with Bigwala music and dance.

In preparation for training workshops community members, the National Council of Folklorists of Uganda (NACOFU) and teachers were mobilized to grow *enhendo* (gourds) with seeds from other regions since they have almost disappeared in the Busoga region. Several Bigwala making workshops were conducted by the masters and their pupils reaching more than twice the number of young people initially planned thanks to enthusiasm generated by these activities. Throughout the project, activities are being documented in photographic and audiovisual form and made available to Busoga communities, kingdom officials and to the general public.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Kenya** | **US$24,038** | **Documenting and inventorying intangible cultural heritage of the pastoralist Samburu community in northern Kenya: a focus on the region of Mount Kulal biosphere reserve** (No. 01024) |
| *Granted:* | 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 2.BUR 5.2](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_1.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)) |
| *Reporting period:* | 04/12/2015 – 31/05/2016 |

In line with the 2006 National Heritage Act of Kenya, the project aimed to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of the Samburu community living in Mount Kulal in northern Kenya, designated as a biosphere reserve in 1979 by UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere programme. The Samburu are semi-nomadic pastoralists who follow patterns of rainfall in search of fresh pasture and water for their livestock. Changing environments and fast pacing economic, political, and cultural influxes threaten the viability of the Samburu ceremonies, folk songs, riddles, storytelling practices and weather prediction and rain making rituals. Implemented by the National Museums of Kenya, with the active participation of Samburu communities, this project aimed at building their capacities for safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage and raising awareness of its importance.

Starting with a comprehensive desk review on Samburu’s living heritage, consultative meetings were conducted with community members from four main locations who have then served throughout the project as the key informants, as well as the project’s planners and coordinators. They also contributed to the creation of four community-based awareness-raising groups. Training workshops on community-based inventorying were organized at Arapal and Wampa villages respectively followed by two months of fieldwork to document specific intangible cultural heritage elements through audiovisual recordings. The resulting documentaries were featured in exhibitions at regional museum stations across the country as a means to raise awareness in the general public on the significance of intangible cultural heritage and promote it. The project has not only contributed to overall efforts of the State Party in drawing up community-based inventories of intangible cultural heritage but will also serve as a stepping stone towards future initiatives related to intangible cultural heritage safeguarding.

1. . Projects considered ‘active’ are unterminated projects supported by International Assistance approved by the Committee or its Bureau, whether materialized in a contract or not yet. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . The beneficiary State met administrative and financial problems that prevented it from completing planned activities and submitting the final report on the date stipulated in the contract. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ICH-04-Report-EN-20150717.doc> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . At its eight session, the Committee requested the Secretariat ‘to devise a means, on a shorter-term basis, and experimentally, to offer technical assistance, through the provision of experts, as described in Article 21 of the Convention, to States Parties wishing to elaborate requests for International Assistance, thanks to the funds available in budget line 2 of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund’ ([Decision 8.COM 7.c](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/D%C3%A9cisions/8.COM/7.c)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)