**Overview and rationale**

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| **Indicator** | **15. Extent to which the importance of ICH and its safeguarding in society is recognized, both by the communities, groups and individuals concerned and by society at large** |
| **Assessment factors** | This indicator is assessed on the basis of three country-level factors monitored and reported by each State Party: |
| * 1. Communities, groups and individuals use their ICH for their well-being, including in the context of sustainable development programmes.
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| * 1. Communities, groups and individuals use their ICH for dialogue promoting mutual respect, conflict resolution and peace-building.
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| * 1. Development interventions recognize the importance of ICH in society as a source of identity and continuity, and as a source of knowledge and skills, and strengthen its role as a resource to enable sustainable development.
 | OD 170, OD 173 |
| **Relation with SDGs and other indicators** | **Sustainable Development Goals:** This indicator’s concern with well-being and sustainable development complements SDG Goal 1 (‘end poverty in all its forms everywhere’) and SDG Goal 3 (‘ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’). Human well-being is also addressed in terms of infrastructure in SDG Target 9.1, while conflict resolution and peace-building are elements of SDG Target 16.2, ‘promote the rule of law…and ensure equal access to justice for all.’ Like all indicators, the present indicator supports SDG Target 11.4 by strengthening ‘efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.’ **Relation to other indicators:** Where Indicators 11-14 address the policy environment, Indicator 15 looks at how effectively such policies and legal and administrative measures are translated into action. |
| **Rationale for action** | Emphasizing the importance of ICH in society, this indicator looks at how ICH can contribute to sustainable development and human well-being. As such, it contains strong human rights and social justice dimensions. The Convention speaks of adopting ‘a general policy aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society, and at integrating the safeguarding of such heritage into planning programmes’ (Article 13(a)). However, it should be remembered that policy-making and development planning are not abstract exercises, but can only achieve their impact when they are translated into programmes and activities. Here the test is not whether such policies may exist, but whether ICH is in fact being utilized to improve people’s well-being. |
| **Key terms** | * Communities, groups or, in some cases, individuals
* Sustainable development
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**Specific guidance on monitoring and periodic reporting**

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| **Benefits of monitoring** | Monitoring this indicator can reveal the extent to which communities, groups and individuals are able to benefit from policies and legal and administrative measures to improve their well-being and the quality of their lives (Assessment Factors 15.1 and 15.2). Moreover, monitoring of Assessment Factor 15.3 can ascertain whether States Parties in their actual development interventions are meeting the goals set out in their policy frameworks and how ICH is being utilized as a resource for sustainable development. In countries that have faced or may face armed conflict, monitoring this indicator can also contribute to preventing conflict and/or towards post-conflict reconciliation. Monitoring at the global level can identify creative strategies and actions taken in countries worldwide and can offer examples of good practices with demonstrated effectiveness, thereby pointing to opportunities for international cooperation and exchange.  |
| **Data sources and collection** | Those responsible for monitoring and reporting may need to look into a broad range of data sources to identify concrete examples of ICH-related activities. Periodic surveys among various actors in the field of safeguarding ICH, or reviews of media coverage and academic research, could also be important means of gathering data. A broadly inclusive consultative body or coordination mechanism, if any, would also be an important source of information for this indicator.**Possible data sources*** Reports of NGOs, community associations, and other actors on their actions
* Newsletters, bulletins or websites of professional associations or networks of researchers
* Media coverage of community-based initiatives or other safeguarding interventions
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