



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

FUNDING PRIORITY 1

Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contribute to sustainable development

Geographical scope/benefiting country(ies):	20 countries in all regions, prioritizing Africa
Duration (in months):	2018-2021
Name and Unit of Project Officer(s) :	Tim Curtis, Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and Secretary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Susanne Schnüttgen, Chief of Unit, Capacity Building and Heritage Policy in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
Partner(s) institutions:	Ministries in charge of intangible cultural heritage and/or other relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions
Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:	US\$ 5 million

Rationale and overall purpose

One of UNESCO's top priorities for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is its global capacity-building programme. It intends to strengthen countries' capacities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and for harnessing its potential for sustainable development, while promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention.



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The Programme has so far focused on addressing the most urgent needs identified for the implementation of the Convention, such as the:

- strengthening of competent bodies and institutions and consultative mechanisms to cater for the specific needs of ICH,
- revision of policies and strategies for safeguarding in relevant policy areas (culture, education, environment, etc.),
- development of community-based inventoring and safeguarding methodology, and
- effective participation of States in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention.

UNESCO has already implemented Programme activities in more than 70 countries and trained more than 1800 individuals from government, civil society and communities. The present Programme aims to extend the reach of the capacity-building strategy to about 20 countries, taking into account those who have not yet benefitted from the Programme, or whose needs have only partially been met. New areas of focus include the establishment of national networks of trainers and strengthening of relevant organizations or institutions, which can replicate capacity building at the national level.

Links with 2030 Agenda



Safeguarding ICH can contribute effectively to sustainable development within each of the dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The capacity-building programme directly contributes to SDG 17 to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. Other areas include food security (SDG 2), health care (SDG 3),

quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), productive employment and decent work (SDG 8), sustainable cities (SDG 11) and climate change (SDG 13).

Summary of outcomes, outputs and activities

Outcome 1: States integrate the safeguarding of ICH into their plans, policies and programmes, both within and outside the Culture Sector, respecting diversity of ICH, requirements of sustainable development and applying an inclusive approach.

Output 1.1: Technical assistance provided for policy and programme development, including the integration of ICH safeguarding in national development programmes and strategies.

Output 1.2: Capacity reinforced for policy and legal development for ICH safeguarding.

Outcome 2: States draw upon competent bodies, institutions and networks at the national level to support the continued practice and transmission of ICH.

Output 2.1: Capacities of competent bodies and institutions for safeguarding ICH strengthened.

Output 2.2: National network of trainers (or equivalent mechanism) initiated or strengthened to respond to capacity-building needs at national and decentralized levels.

Outcome 3: States establish or revise a framework and methodology for inventorying which is inclusive, respects the diversity of ICH and its practitioners, and supports safeguarding by the communities, groups and individuals concerned.

Output 3.1: Knowledge and practical skills for community-based inventorying reinforced, applying an inclusive approach.

Outcome 4: States utilize strengthened human resources for safeguarding ICH, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Output 4.1: Capacities and skills of communities, groups and individuals to develop safeguarding plans for ICH reinforced.

Outcome 5: States participate actively in the Convention's mechanisms for international cooperation, including the International Assistance mechanism where relevant.

Output 5.1: Capacities for participation in the international mechanisms of the Convention, including the preparation of International Assistance requests and/or nominations to the Lists reinforced.

Implementation strategy

The capacity-building process is steered by UNESCO's network of field offices, in cooperation with national counterparts and with on-going technical support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section. States are provided with a diverse complement of interventions designed – according to each State's needs – to strengthen its human and institutional capacities for safeguarding ICH. While workshops and training activities are the most visible features of the Programme, they are embedded within an integrated process of international cooperation and technical assistance to each beneficiary State.

Technical assistance will be delivered using content and materials developed by UNESCO as part of its capacity-building curriculum, including training materials and guidance tools on policy development, community-based inventorying, safeguarding plans, integrating ICH in sustainable development policies and programmes, gender, ethics and the international cooperation mechanisms. The services are delivered through UNESCO's network of trained facilitators, who are familiar with the specific country context and trained to use and adapt the UNESCO training materials.