



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## 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 2021  
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

File may be downloaded at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*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.*

Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionels

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

International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts

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

NGO-90129

#### A.2. Address of the organization

*Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email 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 the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.*

Organization: CIOFF®

Address: Stockton Business Center, 70 Brunswick Street, Stockton on Tess, TS18  
1DW, United Kingdom

Telephone number: 44-1642-553220

Email address: Info@cioff.org

Website: www.cioff.org

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: Beaussant

Given name: Philippe

Institution/position: President

Address: 201 Avenue de Versailles 75016 Paris, France

Telephone number: 0033669598744

Email address: president@cioff.org

Other relevant information: www.cioff.org

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. 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 intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (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*

This international organization has more than 100 National sections (with thousands of members) on five continents – during 50 years of our work in the ICH field, we tried very hard to establish cooperation and participation in many States to develop and strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding ICH elements. In some states, we succeeded better and CIOFF® is invited to this kind of governmental-led process. In others, there is no mechanism but an informal cooperation exists and in some cases ICH committees were created also on the initiative of our organization. We try to improve good cooperation with Ministries of Culture and

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

UNESCO National Commissions – we see improvements in many countries during last 4 years (in Europe: France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Italy; but also Asia with Indonesia, China and South America with Colombia, Argentina). We received its patronage for many events and activities, and also support for the two UNESCO Participation Programme (4 African states and Youth). It's important to mention that our National Sections have very good cooperation with local and regional authorities and also with others NGOs active in ICH field, which allows to develop many activities in close coordination and with culture authorities' recognition.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® International is active in the field of ICH far before the 2003 Convention was adopted and before UNESCO declared the importance of the civil society participation. With this Convention and DG New Directives, CIOFF®'s work became more visible on local, regional and national level and closer to UNESCO (Associate status). So, in many states, CIOFF® developed good cooperation with respective Ministries – Culture, Education, UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Regional Centres, Museums and other institutions active in the presentation, implementation and safeguarding of ICH in general. This cooperation is resulting in organizing together educational trainings, scientific conferences, exhibitions etc.

One of the main contribution of this cooperation is active presence of CIOFF® on local level, in small communities or villages and sometimes ethnic groups which are far from governments' eyes and could be forgotten. Many members of National Sections are experts and in some cases they are also governments' experts – members of different governmental bodies. This include youth participation who are also organizing different events, trainings, publications for children, among others. Most of these activities are related and aligned to the national ICH safeguarding efforts through funding programs or cultural policies where CIOFF® is able to participate as implementing partner or co-partner.

**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*

According to the Article 11 of the Convention, State Parties shall involve the relevant NGOs in the implementation of the Convention. Being an International NGO we do remind our National sections to make their contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report. Considering the size of this organization, we may present different scenarios according the different contexts: in some states we are asked to provide information on our activities in the requested period, in others we are asked only to submit our programmes to the governmental body or to the respective UNESCO National Commission. In some cases, we have CIOFF® members which work as experts in the government so they do include CIOFF® activities to the Report.

Our general feeling is that State Parties are more aware of the need to work together with civil society in the implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention. CIOFF® is one of the oldest and best organized NGO (on national and international level) to be involved more in the drafting of this important document especially when talking about presentation of ICH elements.

**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 Good Safeguarding Practices.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® is present through its members all over the world on different levels, including villages, small communities, groups and individuals. They are in contact with many ICH elements such as instruments, rituals, costumes, dances, songs, traditional crafts etc. In many cases they are the first to discover some forgotten elements which are not enough visible from the governmental eye. CIOFF® International Folklore festivals (more than 300 every year) are many times the best

presentation of these elements to the large public and the way of safeguarding them. In many cases CIOFF® experts just give suggestions and in some cases they participate (work together with governmental bodies) to the preparation of the nominations mainly on Representative List and Good Practices. During CIOFF® International Culture Conference organized every year in a different State, we do present different ICH elements of that state and have scientific or experts' presentation. If it's not yet on the List, we do work on it and in many cases we are successful. Sometimes an element can be part of CIOFF® Folklore Festival and later it's inscribed on the List (very last example is "Grass mowing competition in Kupres", Bosnia and Herzegovina" in 2020, and we have cases like this in Germany, Bulgaria, Greece, China, Indonesia etc.). We also work on the ICH Inventory in respective states – many times we are the link between individuals or small groups with traditions and the governmental side.

**B.5.** *Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventoring 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*

As we already mentioned we have thousands of members of CIOFF® all over the world, in most of the cases belonging to the communities and practitioners. This allows CIOFF® to be present where sometimes the government does not, helping to identify and promote ICH elements, even when not considered for Lists candidatures.

Then, CIOFF® cooperates with artistic groups or individuals belonging to the bearer communities where all kinds of traditional culture and folk arts can be found for them to have where to show them. In that sense, they learn, practice and present these elements in Folklore Festivals, Forums, Congresses, Conferences and publications organized by CIOFF®, so they keep them alive. In that sense, CIOFF® provides a platform through its events for practitioners to show and disseminate their ICH elements. CIOFF® events, therefore, contain places for all ICH categories to be presented from their original sources, having dance, music, crafts, traditional food, games, among others.

CIOFF® is committed to the 2003 Convention principles related to communities' participation, always intending to give them voice and opportunities for they to promote their ICH safeguarding, and also trying to address their needs and challenges.

**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 ICH 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 ICH 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*

CIOFF® International has its own Strategy and Vision (for 4 years). One of the main aim of it is to promote ICH in society – mostly by presenting ICH on more than 300 International festivals, conferences, expositions and other events. Millions of people can learn not only about their own cultural heritage but also about others' – which is very important for education, tolerance, mutual respect and finally peace all over the world.

CIOFF® members are also professionals in ICH and art, working as professors, researchers, artists in different fields – so they are involved in scientific and artistic studies. Those are presented also through written means at national at international level. Academic events and publications are held in more than 10 National Sections who have News Letters and initiatives around an academic sight on ICH, which also includes communities' participation and interaction with external public. During 2020, CIOFF® conducted an on-line survey about people's general knowledge on ICH, gathering technical information that serves as input for its future

programming and activities.

Promotion of access to information around ICH concepts and elements is also part of CIOFF activities, through its events and also its social media, recognizing the importance of digital tools to spread the word about ICH safeguarding and considering the recent conditions of social distancing.

As mentioned before CIOFF® members are coming from communities, groups, and specific ethnic environments and they work with those who have knowledge of ICH elements and traditional art. By learning from them, they present and promote this ICH, keeping these traditions alive and safeguarding it for future generations.

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

- a. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
- b. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
- c. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
- 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 ICH.*

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

- a) CIOFF® is committed to 2003 Convention principles, including engagement of youth in ICH safeguarding. More than 50 youth commissions participate through different activities for other youth and children. This also include educational and awareness-raising programmes related to ICH concepts exclusive for youth. CIOFF® events are always open to general public, aiming to increase popular knowledge on ICH as much as possible and democratize access to information about people's own culture.
- b)–c) CIOFF® National Sections promote educational and training programmes for their members who are mostly, as it was said before, part or representatives of the practitioners' communities. This includes ICH concepts, cultural management, artistic training, among others. This contributes to leave installed capacity for them to better address their needs and challenges related to ICH safeguarding, and also increasing CIOFF® personnel capacity around ICH safeguarding.
- d) Through social media and digital initiatives, as well as academic events such as Congresses, Forums and Workshops, CIOFF® promotes ICH diffusion for its members and general public, looking for more spaces of knowledge-transmission. This also includes publications as News Letters at international level, but also within National Sections (Greece, Colombia, among others) and Annual Reports (2018 – 2019)
- e) CIOFF® is aware of the close relation between places and ICH. That is why its training and all information-sharing spaces promote their importance and, when possible, CIOFF® develop its events in some of those places.

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

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, 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 ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);
- c. developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® is divided into geographical sectors following also UNESCO structure. In that sense, international cooperation is at the core of the organization activities. This starts from the realization of Folklore Festivals, where CIOFF® network is put in place to provide quality and dignified events to folklore groups in capacity to represent their ICH. The realization of other types of events such as Congresses, Forums or Workshops are in some cases coordinated at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels, mostly for sharing information and promoting ICH knowledge.

CIOFF® National Sections are highly aware of the importance of cooperation among them, which allows to develop a variety of activities intended to promote a culture of peace and regional ICH elements.

Recently, CIOFF® is working to increase its relations with Category 2 Centres in Latin America, and has participated in ICHCAP activities within the ICH-NGO Forum such as the Living Heritage Series book. After the establishment of UNESCO 2 Category Centre for Arabic region in Sharjah our cooperation increased and CIOFF® opened its Office to be more active in the region. This is, then, part of CIOFF® participation in NGOs networks to join efforts on ICH safeguarding which is also promoted at national level.

## 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 so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® main representatives have participated in all Committee meetings during the last years as well as the General Assembly ones, represented by its president Philippe Beaussant and representative to UNESCO Magdalena Tovornik. In 2019, CIOFF® had a big delegation in the 14.ICH Committee held in Colombia, with representatives of CIOFF® from Colombia, Perú and México added to representatives to UNESCO (youth and senior), and world president.

During the meetings, CIOFF® have been actively engaged to the activities of ICH-NGO Forum being member of the Steering Committee until 2018. We are active in different committees and we're contributing to the different Forum projects - such as the Living Heritage Series book since its first edition, participating with articles written by CIOFF® members about the organization's ICH safeguarding experiences. We are also actively involved in the preparation of Forum's Reports and other documents to be discussed on different occasions (UNESCO – NGO relations).

**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 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

During the last period CIOFF® did not participate in the activities of Evaluation or Consultative bodies. However, CIOFF® is working on its own list of ICH experts that can be part of the Evaluation Body and is in full capacity to be member of such bodies. Many of our experts are involved on national level (governmental and non-governmental).

**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*

CIOFF® aims to promote, present and safeguard different aspects of Intangible Cultural Heritage all over the world. Through its 105 National Sections in all UNESCO regions (from 2019 also Arabic region), CIOFF® is organizing annually more than 305 festivals, conferences, seminars, forums and exhibitions about different ICH domains like dance, music, food, costumes, crafts, languages etc. Most of CIOFF® members within the National Sections are ICH bearers and belong to the communities practicing ICH elements, and lots of others are highly aware of the UNESCO ICH system. Youth engagement has been also a priority for CIOFF® as a commitment to Article 14, preparing them as future CIOFF® leaders at local and international level and as ICH experts.

As an International NGO, CIOFF® has first-hand knowledge about the implementation of ICH Convention at the national level, its limitations, effects and needs. In that sense, CIOFF® members would be in total capacity to provide the support referred in OD 96 about:

- nominations files for the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
- the programmes, projects and activities mentioned in Article 18 of the Convention;
- the effects of safeguarding plans for elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding.

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate 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 have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As an International NGO, CIOFF® official languages are English, French and Spanish. The organization's main representatives are fluent in English and French, starting from the president and representatives to UNESCO (both youth and senior). At national level, lots of the National Sections representatives are fluent in English and French, including the youth members who are in charge of keeping updated all the organization information in the three official languages as part of a translation team. Additionally, CIOFF® has National Sections and allies in countries where the other UNESCO languages are available: Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic.

It would be difficult to count all members that have a very good command of English or French, but there would be a minimum of 50. We have excellent National Sections in South America speaking Spanish which is CIOFF® third official language (it means all our documents, Reports and publications are in 3 languages).

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® is an organization that is committed to work across several ICH domains since its foundation and By-Laws. The organization of Folklore events include the exhibition and diffusion of different ICH elements like dance, music, food, costumes, crafts, languages, among others. We can easily say that Folklore Festivals are a very complete presentation of so many different ICH elements of each country. All our festivals are international so each festival is a presentation and promotion platform for ICH world heritage. In that sense, CIOFF® commitment to folklore is directly linked to work with all ICH domains and it is not limited to the organization of Folklore festivals. Highly aware of the importance of diffusion and safeguarding strategies, CIOFF® National Sections are implementing different activities during the whole year to contribute with diffusion of ICH domains in different platforms and with an important participation of youth members. In 2020 we showed a lot of flexibility in organizing many events in a different way – all due to pandemic situation. A lot of activities stopped but a new technology was used to organize meetings, conferences, International folklore Festivals and all kind of digital activities all over the world, also increasing and strengthening cooperation among National Sections.

One of interesting result of this working across several ICH domains is a special publication from CIOFF Swiss – a brochure with all events including different ICH elements in one region “To live traditions –Vivre les traditions”..a kind of guide book for visitors who would like to assist ICH events in different places and different dates.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

CIOFF® staff at national and international level is highly experienced in drafting, analysing and evaluating applications and projects' documentation. During 50 years we developed a solid but transparent structure on international, regional (Sectors) and national level – all based on legal documents. CIOFF® activities are mostly implemented through proposals and applications to different funding opportunities. Additionally, there are CIOFF® members whose main work is related to these activities within cultural or humanitarian organizations, increasing staff capacity on this matter.

**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*

As mentioned before, CIOFF® does have experience drafting texts in English and French, both synthetic or not depending on the needs. CIOFF® National Sections must elaborate national reports on a year basis, and are constantly participating in writing activities for ICH diffusion such as magazines, web page and social media releases, projects preparing for their cultural activities among others. CIOFF® main representatives are able to write in both English and French, added to the national members and allies that are able to write in the other UNESCO languages: Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic. Those members could be counted in approximately 50 if we're talking about leaders and much more if we include CIOFF® members in general.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As an international NGO, CIOFF® does have a lot of capacity and experience working in the international level. Practically all our events are international organized on local or national or regional level. Even when National Sections develop their own programs and activities, most of



their members get involved in international activities when working with other countries from their Sector or when participating in worldwide events such as festivals, conferences, expositions etc. All our main meetings are international – Sector’s meetings twice a year, CIOFF® Council and World Congress meetings. The most important international event is CIOFF® Folkloriada every 4 years, gathering a world-wide event around dance, music, and different ICH domains, in cooperation with the host-country authorities. Additionally, CIOFF® has been constantly increasing its presence in other international scenarios, mainly related to UNESCO events and activities which contribute to raise the organization’s capacity to apply its experience.

## 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 funding from the Participation Program).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

At national level, CIOFF® has been actively working with UNESCO National Commissions and UNESCO Regional Offices in the implementation and organization of different activities and events.

CIOFF® has been authorized to use the emblems in many occasions like World Congresses, Youth Forums, Folkloriada (2012, 2016, 2020-postponed to 2021) and some International Festivals and conferences. Additionally, CIOFF® strong cooperation with UNESCO has been also visible through the realization of an especial evening of the Festival Cultures Croisées, where invited groups provide an international showcase of their traditional music and dances at UNESCO headquarters in Paris every year in June (more than 1000 visitors every year).

CIOFF® has its Representative of CIOFF® to UNESCO - who is elected for 4 years (Magdalena Tovornik) and she attends all relevant UNESCO meetings regarding NGOs and ICH field. CIOFF® President Philippe Beussant is member of NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for 3 mandates (President of the Committee in 2016-2018 – Vice president in 2019-2020 and Treasurer in 2021-2022). We attended all UNESCO ICH Committees as well as NGO-UNESCO Forums last 4 years with bigger delegations (our members from Portugal, Colombia, Chile, Benin, Botswana, Peru etc). We are very active in ICH-NGO Forum since its beginning and we were member of its first Steering Committee.

CIOFF® has been awarded twice within the Participation Program during the last years, in 2016 for the project of 4 African states on “ The role of women in the mask society in Africa” and in 2020 for CIOFF® Youth project “Intangible cultural heritage safeguarding for intercultural dialogue” in Greece, Turkey, Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia.

## G. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

*Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.*

*For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.*

Yes!!!  Yes

No

## H. Signature

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

Name: Philippe Beaussant

Title: CIOFF PRESIDENT

Date: 11/02/2021

Signature:

PHILIPPE BEAUSSANT  
Président du CIOFF®  
president@cioff.org

