



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:
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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.

Общественный фонд культурно-исследовательский центр «Айгине»

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

Aigine Cultural Research Center, Public Fund

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

NGO – 90335

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: Aigine Cultural Research Center (Aigine CRC)

Address: 93 Toktogul St., Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyzstan

Telephone number: +996 312 664 832

	+996 312 661 951
Email address:	office@aigine.kg
Website:	www.aigine.kg
Other relevant information:	https://www.facebook.com/aigineCRC

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.):	Ms.
Family name:	Usubalieva-Gryshchuk
Given name:	Cholponai
Institution/position:	Aigine CRC, project coordinator
Address:	93 Toktogul St.
Telephone number:	+996 312 664 832/+996 312 661 951
Email address:	cholponai@aigine.kg
Other relevant information:	office@aigine.kg

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

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

As a permanent member of the National Expert Committee on ICH under the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, Aigine CRC was involved in drafting and implementing the National Programme on Safeguarding, Studying and Promoting the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2012-2017) aimed at developing, safeguarding and promoting ICH.

In the framework of this program, Aigine CRC together with ICH experts of the National Academy of Sciences developed the national inventory and carried out capacity building workshops for state institutions, national experts, NGO sector and other stakeholders on the

¹. 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.

implementation of the Convention, inventory elaboration and cooperation with communities on safeguarding measures.

Aigine CRC, as an active participant of the NGO Forum and UNESCO Category 2 Centers, renders regular consultative assistance to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Institute of Languages and Literature, Institute of History and Cultural Heritage and the Department on Monitoring Human Development and Cooperation with Civil Society under the President's Office to strengthen their institutional capacities and upgrading their knowledge on the processes of ICH safeguarding at regional and international levels. Special emphasis is given to a) strengthening digital skills of the state employees working on ICH related policies; b) integrating participatory approaches and c) introducing ethnic, religious, spiritual and age-related diversities in their activities.

Aigine CRC regularly participates in workshops organized by the National Commission aimed at drafting ICH-related policies on district levels and contributes by undertaking follows-up activities on such initiatives.

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

The National Expert Committee on ICH under the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic is the main state body designated to implement ICH safeguarding. Aigine CRC has been represented by its director, Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva as a permanent member of the Committee since April 2012. As a Committee member, Aigine CRC contributes to elaborating, monitoring and updating the ICH inventory in the domains of oral heritage, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and social practices, rituals and festive events. In particular, Aigine CRC is responsible for documenting and inventorying pilgrimage practices and rituals at sacred sites of Kyrgyzstan, developing and implementing their safeguarding measures, integrating into formal education system and working with community members.

The Institute of Language and Literature of the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences is another state institution designated to carry out ICH safeguarding and training. Director of Aigine CRC, Dr. Aitpaeva, serves as the deputy head of the Dissertation Defense Board and contributes to strengthening writing skills of candidates, who cover and address ICH related subjects in their doctoral and masters dissertations.

Aigine CRC's staff members and affiliates – Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, Dr. Aijarkyn Kojobekova, Mr. Aibek Samakov, Ms. Aiza Abdyrakhmanova and Ms. Cholponai UG serve as national ICH experts since 2014 and lend advisory services to the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. They deliver capacity building workshops and awareness raising activities among ICH stakeholders in various regions of Kyrgyzstan.

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 Kyrgyz Republic's first Periodic Report was submitted in 15/12/2012, the year when Aigine CRC only started its cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission.

The next cycle of Kyrgyzstan's Periodic Report is due on 15/12/2024. Thus, currently, as a permanent member of the National Expert Committee on ICH, Aigine CRC assumes the role of coordinating contacts between the State and other national NGOs working in the field of ICH. Aigine CRC is involved in gathering necessary information on safeguarding activities and elaboration of inventories by communities, national NGOs and other relevant stakeholders for the State's Periodic Report.

Aigine CRC has already started undertaking activities to monitor and measure the Convention's Overall Results Framework, specifically measuring indicators No. 18 and 21. The work on these

indicators was presented and shared during the meeting of the Working group on Results Framework of the ICH NGO Forum on 14 Dec 2020. The findings of this activity will be contributed to drafting the State's Periodic Report.

Aigine CRC also maintains close collaboration with various ICH community members. Thus, the Center is planning to involve ICH communities in drafting the Report and contribute by reflecting their voices on ICH safeguarding and implementation of the Convention. The Center will also contribute to the drafting of the Report by rendering analytical and consultative assistance and by preparing those sections of the Report, in which Aigine CRC has expertise in.

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

In preparation of the nominations on **Kyrgyz Epic Trilogy: Manas, Semetey, Seytek and Kok-Boru, Traditional Horse Game**, Aigine CRC directly worked with concerned communities, carried out field research, developed the concept of the photo & video materials and together with the community members prepared the entire nomination file.

In preparation of the **Ak-Kalpak Craftsmanship, Traditional Knowledge and Skills in Making and Wearing Kyrgyz Men's Headwear**, Aigine CRC together with the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO consulted the community members preparing the nomination file, provided video materials from its archive and prepared one of the sections of the nomination file.

In preparation of the joint multinational nomination on **Traditional Intelligence and Strategy Game: Togyzqumalaq, Toguz Korgool, Mangala/Göçürme**, Aigine CRC together with the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO consulted and assisted the community members and participated in a working group meeting in Turkey to represent Kyrgyzstan and to draft the nomination.

In preparation of the joint multinational nomination on **Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz**, Aigine CRC participated in and contributed to the final working group meeting on preparation of the final nomination file in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran and assisted in preparing the video material.

Aigine CRC applied for and received International Assistance in the amount of US\$ 99,950 to implement the project on **Safeguarding of Practices and Rare Rituals Related to Sacred Sites in Kyrgyzstan: Preparation of an Inventory and Safeguarding** from 2018 to 2020.

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

Aigine CRC documents ICH through research, in-depth interviews, observation, informal communication and photo & video documentation. Then, through participatory approach and direct collaboration with ICH communities, the Center identifies and defines ICH elements through community-based inventorying with prior consent of the ICH communities.

In order to make community-based inventorying possible, Aigine CRC conducts consultations, capacity building and awareness raising workshops for ICH communities on the 2003 Convention, discusses communities' rights and current risks and challenges in practicing their ICH. The Centre undertakes efforts to address the ICH communities' issues and voice their concerns by coordinating contacts with the State, National Commission, media and other relevant stakeholders.

Aigine CRC contributed to the development of the principles of national inventorying and initiated, documented and made inventory of 36 pilgrimage rituals and practices and 1,233 sacred sites in all 7 provinces of Kyrgyzstan. 26 books and 30 short video documentations were produced together with the communities. All these products voice ICH practitioners and

emphasize their visions and approaches.

In the field of oral heritage, Aigine CRC documented 67 hour-long video recording of 125 episodes of the entire Manas epic trilogy recited by 14 modern chanters. In the domain of performing arts, a teaching manual on Kyrgyz traditional music instrument with 25 traditional melodies was produced. This manual presents the indigenous teaching & learning skills, revived by outstanding traditional musician, Nurak Abdrakmanov.

The Center's focus in documenting and identifying ICH is bringing together and involving ICH practitioners from around the country.

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

Based on its mission, Aigine CRC attempts to reintegrate the positive potential of cultural heritage in various levels of contemporary life. Thus, promotes unifying, consolidating and educational functions of ICH. These and other functions are promoted through various TV programs and shows by involving ICH community members and experts, when they share their life stories, value and importance of ICH for their community and society at large. Aigine CRC produces and popularizes specific ICH function-targeted publications like Message from Water and Manual on Processing Traditional Wiry and Greasy Wool and Making Crafts from It.

In cooperation with the Worldwide Indigenous Science Network (WISN) headquartered in Hawaii, U.S.A., Aigine CRC works on fostering academic research on spiritual and ceremonial aspects of ICH related to knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe. Dr. Aitpaeva is a faculty member of the WISN's Master's and Ph.D. in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies. This research activity brings together ICH communities from around the world to share knowledge and experience and to understand the value of ICH.

All of Aigine CRC's ICH publications, documentaries and other information are primarily produced in the Kyrgyz language, which facilitates wide public access. All the materials, with prior consent, are distributed among network of ICH communities in rural areas, regional libraries, schools, colleges, other state institutions and widely circulated on social media and the Center's website. The information, to the possible extent, is translated into the Russian and English languages to provide access for non-Kyrgyz speakers.

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

Aigine CRC within the course of its work has implemented 18 ICH related projects, which have

significantly contributed to greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH in Kyrgyzstan.

In non-formal means of transmitting knowledge, Aigine CRC was able to revive traditional master-apprentice system in the domain of oral heritage and performing arts. The Center carried out several projects and together with communities nurtured 14 young epic reciters, who evolved into an active and self-sustaining wing of epic chanters. The training of 40 music teachers led to establishment of an Ensemble of 1000 Komuz players, which performed at the opening of 2nd World Nomad Games in 2016.

Aigine CRC conducts regular educational, awareness raising and information campaigns through national TV and Radio programs once every month, on an average, in Kyrgyz and Russian languages. Within the framework of its projects, Aigine CRC also undertakes a number of capacity building workshops for community members on the 2003 Convention and ICH safeguarding, as well as training on strengthening their computer skills, Internet and social media usage to better communicate their ideas and values to youth.

The Center together with ICH communities developed the National Manual for Safeguarding Pilgrimage Practices and Rituals at Sacred Sites as an educational tool for higher institutions and government agencies working in the field of ICH safeguarding. The manual lists contemporary challenges and threats faced by sacred sites – spaces of nature, which existence is necessary for expressing and practicing ancient-long pilgrimage rituals and practices.

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 Centers for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, Centers 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

Aigine developed a cooperation of Central Asian NGOs and developed joint approach on safeguarding sacred sites.

The Center contributed to the work of:

- International Experts Meeting on Mapping Research on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific with presentation Safeguarding Epic's Diversity through Digitization, Malasiya, 2015
- Co-organizing the IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific, Kyrgyzstan, 2015
- IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific, Japan, 2016.
- The Asia-Pacific ICH NGO Conference on Achieving SDGs through Safeguarding ICH with presentation Building-up Cultural Sustainability: from Research to Performance, Republic of Korea, 2016
- Initiating and developing the concept of Sacred Landscape in Central Asia and presenting Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan: Diversity and Resilience of ICH at the 7th Central Asia Sub-Regional Network Meeting on the Safeguarding of ICH, Tajikistan, 2016
- Central Asia ICH Film Festival and 8th Central Asia Sub-Regional Network Meeting on the Safeguarding of ICH with presentation Current Situation in Vocational Education in

Kyrgyzstan: The ICH Domain and featuring 5 ICH documentaries, Kyrgyzstan, 2017.

- Sub-Regional Training Workshops for the Facilitators on 2003 Convention for ICH Safeguarding, Uzbekistan, 2019
- The World Forum for ICH with presentation Sacred Sites as Living Heritage: Enriching Community Life, Republic of Korea, 2019
- The training course on Inventoring Elements of ICH along the Silk Road, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, Kyrgyzstan, 2019 & 2020
- The activities of the ICH NGO Forum connected to 14 and 15 COM, 2019 & 2020

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

Aigine CRC has extensive experience in participating in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH represented by its director and national ICH expert, Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva.

Dr. Aitpaeva has served as the Lead Expert of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Subsidiary Body of the Intergovernmental Committee in 2013-2014. She was also a Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Intergovernmental Committee from 2012 to 2016 and attended the following sessions of the Committee:

- 14th session, 2019, Bogota, Colombia
- 13th session, 2018, Port-Luis, Mauritius
- 12th session, 2017, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
- 10th session, 2015, Windhoek, Namibia
- 9th session, 2014, Paris, France
- 8th session, 2013, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 7th session, 2012, Paris, France

In 2014 and 2018 Dr. Aitpaeva took part in meetings of the General Assembly.

Dr. Aitpaeva served as the rapporteur during the 7th session and during the 14th session contributed in the process of sharing visions on the nature of ICH Lists. Dr. Aitpaeva also represented and defended the interests of the Kyrgyz Republic, guided and consulted the working group from the country involved in evaluation of the nomination files for the Representative List. Aigine CRC's staff members and affiliates, Dr. Aijarkyn Kojobekova, Ms. Cholponai UG and Mr. Aibek Samakov were involved in preparing the country nominations together with ICH communities, the State, NGO sector and other ICH stakeholders.

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

Aigine CRC has not yet served as a member of the Evaluation Body or as a member of the Consultative Body.

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

During its membership in the national team for the Subsidiary Body, Aigine CRC's staff members and affiliates – Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, Dr. Aijarkyn Kojobekova and Dr. Aida Alymbaeva participated in evaluation of nomination files and provided advisory services by giving their feedback and expertise.

Aigine CRC has experience in examining national ICH elements in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, such as *baksy biy* – shaman/healing dance, or the disappearing method of making *komuz*, Kyrgyz traditional musical instrument. The Center's expertise on these and other elements was provided to and applied in the work of the National Commission and the Ministry on Culture. This experience might further be enriched and applied at the international level to examine nomination files to the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

The Center was directly involved in presenting and defending the nomination **Ala-Kiyiz and Shyrdak, Art of Kyrgyz Traditional Felt Carpet** to be inscribed into the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in Paris in 2012. As the member of the expert group under the National Commission, our members have been involved in observing and examining the effects of safeguarding plans for this element. This long-term experience built the Center's capacity to examine, measure and evaluate the effects of safeguarding activities for elements inscribed on the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Aigine CRC works in Kyrgyzstan – a developing country – since 2004 and accumulated a wealth of solid experience in recognizing, understanding and conceptualizing development issues and needs. Our experience gives us confidence that we built essential capacity to develop, select and promote national, subregional and regional programmes, projects and activities for ICH safeguarding taking into account peculiarities and needs of developing countries.

Aigine CRC has applied for International Assistance, received and successfully implemented the two-year project on the national level. Concerned ICH community, members of the Steering Committee and the National Commission positively evaluated the project during its implementation and upon its completion. Such feedback makes us confident in our capabilities to share our experience and knowledge to prepare proposals for International Assistance and to examine and evaluate such proposals from other State Parties.

Aigine CRC initiated and encouraged PF Rural Development Fund from Kyrgyzstan to apply for accreditation and provided detailed consultations on procedures and requirements of accreditation. The Center also assisted and consulted PO Kuhhoi Pomir from Tajikistan and urged them to get accredited. Thus, the Center contributed to the emergence of two accredited NGOs from Central Asia, a region with poor representation of accredited NGOs at the ICH NGO Forum.

In 2021, Aigine CRC as an NGO from the Asia-Pacific is planning to run in the election to the Evaluation Body for 2022 and 2025, as the team believes to have a full potential and expertise to be a member of the Evaluation body and provide full-fledged advisory services to the Committee.

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

Aigine CRC's staff members and affiliates have advanced command of English, all of them have international experience and exposure while some of them have academic degrees from

western universities.

Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, Dr. Aida Alymbaeva, Dr. Aijarkyn Kojobekova, Mr. Aibek Samakov, Ms. Cholponai UG, Ms. Aiza Abdyrakhmanova and Ms. Meerim Aitkeeva – seven staff members and affiliates with advanced command of English language.

All of them have expertise in different domains of ICH – epic heritage, folk music, memory studies, Kyrgyz traditional knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, social practices and rituals, sacred sites as community-conserved areas.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of ICH – Aigine CRC fosters recognition, promotion and safeguarding of Kyrgyz language by maintaining it as the main language of communication with ICH communities and producing ICH related content in Kyrgyz. Three books were published in the languages of other ethnic groups living in Kyrgyzstan – Uzbek and Tajik on knowledge and practices concerning nature, while other three books on memory studies were published in Russian.

Aigine CRC has digitally documented the contemporary state of the Manas epic by producing a 67-hour long recitation of epic trilogy by active epic chanters. The Center contributed to reviving the traditional master-apprentice system and nurturing the youngest generation of *manaschys*. Aigine CRC also prepared the nomination on the Manas epic together with the community members.

Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe – Aigine CRC inventoried 1,233 sacred sites and 36 rituals and practices throughout the country, produced 14 publications and 12 video documentaries, developed national safeguarding manual and built a nationwide network of community members.

Traditional musical instruments and melodies – Aigine CRC documented, promoted and transmitted *En-Belgi* – an indigenous system of playing *komuz* developed by one of the most prominent traditional musicians and practitioners, Nurak Andrakhmanov, who spent 37 years of his life to revive the system. Transmission of the *En-Belgi* to music teachers through teaching workshops resulted in countrywide accumulation of 1,000 players of various ages. Aigine CRC also undertook activities to involve youth with visual impairments in mastering *komuz* with *En-Belgi*.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Aigine CRC as a member of the Subsidiary Body accumulated experience in evaluating and analyzing nomination files in 2013 and 2014.

As an expert organization on ICH, Aigine CRC is regularly recruited to participate in evaluating, analyzing and selecting various proposals and applications related to cultural heritage by various state institutions and NGO sector.

Aigine CRC is a member of the non-formal Evaluation and Selection Committee of the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO and Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan. Aitpaeva serves as a deputy head of the Dissertation Defense Board of the National Academy of Sciences and directly deals with evaluating and analyzing doctoral and master's dissertations.

The Center also implements a number of academic research project involving call for applications and proposals; thus, having a wealth of experience and a strong analytical capacity.

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

Aigine CRC has solid experience and capacity to develop and prepare various documents – applications, proposals, nomination files, narrative and financial reports, including writing various academic articles and research papers in English language. Two books were published in English based on field research on pilgrimage practices and sacred sites in 2007 and 2013.

These staff members and affiliates are – Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, Dr. Aida Alymbaeva, Dr. Aijarkyn Kojobekova, Mr. Aibek Samakov, Ms. Cholponai UG, Ms. Aiza Abdyrakhmanova and Ms. Meerim Aitkeeva – total of seven people.

A number of articles and research papers in English written by Aigine CRC's staff members and affiliates were published in western journals and ICH Courier. The Center also provides its assistance to the National Commission in drafting and editing the country nomination files in English. The language of correspondence and communication with international partners and donors is the English language.

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

Aigine CRC has been partnering and carrying out joint projects with a wide range of international organizations since 2004. We had two long-term joint academic research projects with the Center for Central Asian Studies of the Harvard University with involvement of participants from nine post-Soviet countries; two joint projects with WISN, USA on reviving knowledge and practices related to Sacred Fire Ceremony with involvement of participants from Africa, Japan, Latin America, South Korea, Russia, U.S.A. and Central Asia.

The Center worked with the Center for Medical Anthropology under the Russian Academy of Sciences, Foundation for Sustainable Development of Altai and Music and Folklore Museum of Yakut people on indigenous spiritual practices. Three members of Aigine CRC together with five ICH practitioners participated in 4th and 5th International Conference and World Council of Elders held in India in 2012 and 2015.

Dr. Aitpaeva served as a member of ICH Courier's Editorial Advisory Board, ICHCAP in 2018-2019. Four members of Aigine CRC contributed nine articles on ICH in Kyrgyzstan published in the ICH Courier. Dr. Aitpaeva also served as the Board member for the Central Eurasian Study Society in 2006-2009, and, currently serves as the member of the Advisory Committee of the Global Center for Pluralism, Canada.

The Center's staff members and affiliates participate in various international conferences and symposiums sharing experience of Kyrgyzstan, networking and exchanging information. Recently, two staff members applied the local experience on measuring ORFs during the work of the ICH NGO Forum related to 15 COM.

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

Aigine CRC received authorization to use the emblem of the 2003 Convention in the course of implementing its project on Safeguarding of Practices and Rare Rituals Related to Sacred Sites

in Kyrgyzstan: Preparation of Inventory and Safeguarding Measures with financial support of the UNESCO International Assistance Fund in the amount of \$99,950.00 and duration from 17/11/2018 to 18/10/20.

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

No

H. Signature

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

Name: Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva

Title: Director

Date: 9 February 2021

Signature:

