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

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

**Meeting of the Bureau**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

**22 March 2023**

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**DECISIONS**

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 2

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/2 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-2_Rev.-EN.docx) and its annex,
2. Adopts the agenda of its first meeting as annexed to this Decision.

**ANNEX**

**Agenda of the first meeting of the 18.COM Bureau**

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| Agenda item | | Document |
| 1. | Opening |  |
| 2. | Adoption of the agenda | LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/2 Rev. |
| 3. | Examination of emergency requests for International Assistance | LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/3 |
| 4. | Examination of requests for International Assistance up to US$100,000 | LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/4 Rev. |
| 5. | Change of venue for the eighteenth session of the Committee | LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/5 |
| 6. | Other business   1. Statutory meeting dates in 2023 2. Nominations under the 2023 and 2024 cycles 3. Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2023 4. Other issues | LHE/23/Schedule Rev.2 |
| 7. | Closure |  |

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 3.1

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-3-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02045 submitted by Ethiopia,
3. Takes note that Ethiopia has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Emergency response to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Lalibela World Heritage property and the surrounding area endangered by conflict**:

To be implemented by the Ethiopian Heritage Authority, in collaboration with the Association of St. Lalibela and Surrounding Heritage Conservation and Protection, this three-year project aims to contribute to the revival of the traditional church schools in Lalibela and the surrounding areas. These church schools, situated within the World Heritage property of the ‘Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela’, have been temporarily closed due to ongoing conflicts in northern Ethiopia and the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will provide technical and financial support to the church schools, as well as to civil society and government institutions. It will also facilitate trainings and other activities aimed at safeguarding living heritage. The project is expected to contribute to the sustainability of the church schools, which are vital for the survival of the religious practices and the conservation of the World Heritage property. The project is furthermore expected to have a broader impact within and beyond Lalibela through experience-sharing and training-of-trainers programmes, which will revitalize the traditional management system for safeguarding living heritage enacted by practitioners and church communities. Furthermore, this project reflects an integrated approach seeking a synergy between the 1972 Convention and 2003 Convention for the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Ethiopia has requested assistance in the amount of US$150,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02045, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**:The primary beneficiaries of the project are the communities living in Lalibela town and its surrounding region. Representatives from eighty communities associated with Lalibela discussed and endorsed the project during a meeting with UNESCO and the Ethiopian Heritage Authority in June 2021. The request clearly demonstrates the involvement of communities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the project. Community representatives will furthermore be part of the project’s Steering Committee.

**Criterion A.2**:In general, the budget is clearly presented, corresponds to the planned activities and is consistent with the timetable. Nevertheless, further clarification is required on the budgetary details for some activities, notably for the training activities related to different handicraft skills (Activity 2).

**Criterion A.3**: While some of the activities could benefit from more detail and the link between them could be further developed, the overall request is well structured. It consists of five activities that align with the objectives of the request. These include: a) awareness raising, b) conducting training workshops for youth on traditional manuscript writing and maintenance, as well as on painting and weaving; c) translating the Convention text into Amharic; d) providing the necessary equipment to the traditional church schools hosting training courses to ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge. The proposed timeframe of thirty-six months is realistic for achieving the expected results of the project given the challenging context related to the ongoing conflict in the region.

**Criterion A.4**: The training activities involving teachers, youth, community practitioners and church administrators have the potential to produce lasting results and contribute to the transmission and dissemination of knowledge and skills related to living heritage beyond the project’s implementation. Additionally, the implementation of restoration activities is expected to revive the interests of students and communities in traditional church schools and their programmes. The translation of the Convention’s text into Amharic will further raise awareness and knowledge about the Convention and the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at the national level. Finally, the project exemplifies an integrated approach to heritage safeguarding where the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property benefits from the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage practiced by the communities concerned by that property.

**Criterion A.5**: Due to the ongoing emergency situation, the submitting State Party will not contribute financially to the project. However, the State Party is encouraged to report on any in-kind contributions that may be made during the project’s implementation.

**Criterion A.6**: The project is clearly aimed at developing the capacities of the communities concerned, with an emphasis on traditional custodians and youth. During the various training workshops, seventy students will be trained by practitioners on sharing and transmitting their traditional knowledge related to specific craft areas. Additionally, the project includes a capacity-building component that will benefit the church’s administrative staff, academics and cultural officers of the implementing agency. The project will therefore contribute to raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding living heritage and skills related to traditional crafts.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has previously benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the project entitled ‘Ongota: the Language of the Biraile’ (file no. 00176, December 2008 – April 2009, US$5,000). The work stipulated by the contract related to this assistance was carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The proposed activities are local in scope and imply cooperation with local and national implementing partners, such as the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church, the Ethiopian National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa. The project also foresees the active participation of academia, representatives of student associations, government officials and civil society organisations.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The request highlights that the project will benefit both the communities and the Ethiopian church at national level. In addition, the institutions involved in the project will benefit from the capacity-building activities. These trainings have the potential to enable teachers and students to create their own sources of income, thus contributing to improving their living conditions.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Ethiopia** for the project entitled **Emergency response to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Lalibela World Heritage property and the surrounding area endangered by conflict** and grants the amount of US$150,000 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Commends the State Party for submitting an International Assistance with an integrated approach to heritage safeguarding, which recognizes the interdependence between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage practiced by the communities concerned at that property;
3. Encourages the State Party to share its experiences and the results with the international community upon completion of the project;
4. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
5. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 3.2

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-3-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02074 submitted by Romania,
3. Takes note that Romania has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Community-based teaching and learning of Ukraine’s living heritage in Romania:**

To be implemented by the Asociatia Serviciul Iezuitilor pentru Refugiati din Romania (JRS Romania), this fourteen-month project aims at safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Ukrainian communities temporarily displaced in Romania and seeks to raise awareness of the important role of living heritage in supporting the resilience of these communities and encouraging social cohesion. The project is based on the outcomes of the UNESCO project ‘Assessing the needs of living heritage safeguarding among displaced communities from Ukraine in five neighbouring countries: Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia’ implemented in 2022. The main activity involves the organization of a series of workshops on Ukrainian living heritage practices, such as traditional cuisine, handicrafts and performing folk arts, targeting displaced children and youth. The workshops will be facilitated by displaced Ukrainians with a cultural and/or educational background who will be recruited through the project and receive training from a team of intangible cultural heritage experts. In addition to the workshops, the project activities include raising awareness about the project’s scope and objectives, recruiting and training workshop facilitators, designing workshop curricula, and developing a related handbook and travelling exhibition to be hosted by several Romanian cultural institutions. Aligned with Ukraine’s National Recovery Plan, the project is expected to create job opportunities for workshop facilitators in the cultural sector in Romania or Ukraine. Moreover, it will generate discussions about Ukrainian intangible cultural heritage and encourage cooperation and the exchange of best practices among civil society organizations, cultural institutions, experts, and private and State services.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Romania has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,886 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02074, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The needs assessment supported by UNESCO in Romania in 2022 ensured the active participation of the community during the project design phase, which involved multiple stakeholders. Furthermore, the project represents a community-based approach for transmitting Ukrainian intangible cultural heritage across generations. The project implementation will involve the Ukrainian communities, groups and individuals temporarily displaced in Romania at every stage. Moreover, the project will benefit from the participation of local branches of the Union of Ukrainians in Romania, an organization that implements various cultural projects to safeguard and promote Ukrainian culture, especially Ukrainian intangible cultural heritage.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is presented in a structured manner, with a clear breakdown of the planned activities and related expenses. The requested amount of assistance may therefore be considered appropriate for the implementation of the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The project proposes a logical sequence of activities, including capacity building, designing the curricula for each workshop based on the Ukrainian folk calendar, assessing project progress with trainers and beneficiaries and conducting various awareness-raising actions. The proposed activities correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request and appear to be feasible within the proposed project duration.

**Criterion A.4**: The involvement of various stakeholders, such as experts, representatives of local cultural institutions, representatives of refugee centres, educational institutions, and local and central government, is a crucial factor in ensuring the sustainability of the project’s results. During the project, the trained facilitators will receive both theoretical information and practical tools, making them well-equipped to become involved in safeguarding initiatives, either in Romania or in Ukraine. Furthermore, during the project design process, other international organizations announced their support for any Ukrainian-related initiative, further reinforcing the sustainability of the project’s outcomes.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State Party will contribute 5 percent of the total amount of the project budget (US$104,686). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 95 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project has a clear focus on building the capacities of communities and other stakeholders concerned. One of the most important activities is the recruitment of facilitators from the displaced Ukrainian communities to participate in the workshops, taking place over 8 months. In addition, a 5-day capacity-building workshop will be organized, where intangible cultural heritage experts and educational consultants will teach, further strengthening the recruited facilitators’ teaching and transmission skills. Moreover, through the training and other project activities, participants will have the opportunity to share their specific customs and cultural practices, exchange their local experiences with others.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and its implementation involves national and local partners. However, to harmonize safeguarding efforts with Ukraine, the steering committee will seek constant feedback from Ukrainian intangible cultural heritage experts and facilitators based in Ukraine.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The promotion and dissemination of the project’s objectives and results, interlinked with other project activities, will ensure the multiplier effects of the project. The workshop facilitators will be able to apply and further enhance their newly acquired skills either in Romania or in Ukraine. In Romania, they can continue to showcase and teach issues related to intangible cultural heritage at specific events and interactive workshops, such as craft fairs, which are organized on a regular basis by various Romanian entities, including museums, county cultural centres, associations of craftspeople, among others. The project aims to publish the handbook in both Ukrainian and English, making it possible to adapt and implement similar curricula in other communities of displaced persons seeking to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage across generations.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Romania** for the project entitled **Community-based teaching and learning of Ukraine’s living heritage in Romania** and grants the amount of US$99,886 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Commends the State Party for its initiative to submit an emergency request that benefits Ukrainian displaced communities in Romania;
3. Encourages the State Party to share its experiences and project outcomes with the international community upon the completion of the project;
4. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
5. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 3.3

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-3-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02051 submitted by Slovakia,
3. Takes note that Slovakia has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **To get together – Enhancement of the capacities of displaced communities from Ukraine living in Slovakia through living heritage:**

To be implemented by the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, this twenty-month project aims to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Ukrainian communities temporarily displaced in Slovakia and raise awareness of the important role of living heritage safeguarding for forcefully displaced communities. The project is based on the outcomes of the UNESCO project ‘Assessing the needs of living heritage safeguarding among displaced communities from Ukraine in five neighbouring countries: Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia’ implemented in 2022. The project focuses on safeguarding living heritage as a means of strengthening resilience, improving health and well-being, and providing a safe environment for networking among Ukrainian displaced communities. The proposed activities align with Ukraine’s National Recovery Plan and include capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops, social and festive events related to living heritage, mapping of safeguarding needs, and dissemination activities for larger audiences. In addition to safeguarding Ukrainian living heritage and ensuring access to culture for displaced populations, the project aims to build the capacities of organizations working with refugees and migrants in Slovakia. The project has the potential to contribute to promoting social cohesion between displaced and host communities and raising awareness of the important role of living heritage for displaced populations.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Slovakia has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,914 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02051, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The Ukrainian communities displaced and temporarily based in Slovakia played a central role in elaborating the project and defining the proposed activities. More than fifty people were interviewed with a view to define practices that could improve their well-being, while contributing to the safeguarding of their living heritage. Furthermore, the Ukrainian communities will be represented through the Ukrainian non-governmental organization (NGO) ‘Sme spolu’, which will be the main implementing partner in the project. The request clearly describes how the main beneficiaries will actively participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

**Criterion A.2**:The detailed budget is well thought out and structured to support the different components of the project. It corresponds to the planned activities and is consistent with the proposed timeframe.

**Criterion A.3**: The objectives and results of the project are clearly defined and appear achievable. The proposed activities include awareness-raising workshops to promote Ukrainian living heritage, festive and social events aimed at strengthening social cohesion among communities, capacity-building workshops for community centres, mapping and documentation of the intangible cultural heritage of displaced populations, and the production of awareness-raising materials to promote good practices in using living heritage as a means of strengthening resilience and improving the health and well-being of temporarily displaced populations.

**Criterion A.4**: Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities involving displaced communities as well as local community centres could ensure the sustainability of the project and contribute to the continued transmission of intangible cultural heritage beyond the implementation of the project. The request also mentions that the project could contribute to improving the well-being and inclusion of the beneficiaries in their host country. It would provide a space for adults and children to share their culture and traditions and learn from each other. Beyond addressing the primary needs of displaced populations in times of conflict, the project aims to create a safe environment for communities to practice their living heritage. Furthermore, the materials developed and the lessons learnt from the project will be taken into consideration in future projects involving displaced communities.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State Party will contribute 7 percent and other partners will contribute a further 3 percent of the total amount of the project budget (US$110,899). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 90 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project has a large capacity-building component for displaced communities, focusing on women, children, the elderly and vulnerable groups. More than thirty workshops will be organized to ensure the intergenerational transmission of the Ukrainian living heritage among communities. These will be combined with the celebration of festive events to strengthen social cohesion, intergenerational and intercultural dialogue. The project is expected to train more than 500 participants in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the displaced communities and the local authorities involved in the project will be trained on the identification and documentation of intangible cultural heritage. These activities will increase awareness of the 2003 Convention in Slovakia and promote greater recognition of Ukrainian living heritage in their host country.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is of national scope, although most activities will be implemented in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, where the majority of Ukrainian refugees reside. The project will be implemented by three key partners: the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Ukrainian community-based NGO ‘Sme spolu’, and the ‘Milan Šimečka Foundation’. The latter is an established NGO with extensive experience in the field of integration, multiculturalism, social cohesion and human rights.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project is expected to have a strong multiplier effect as the methodology, capacity-building modules and training materials developed and tested within this project can be used to train community centres and other organizations working with refugees and migrants in Slovakia. The good practices and lessons learnt from the project will also be shared with neighboring countries, including with Ukraine.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Slovakia** for the project entitled **To get together - Enhancement of the capacities of displaced communities from Ukraine living in Slovakia through living heritage** and grants the amount of US$99,914 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Commends the State Party for its initiative to submit an emergency request benefitting Ukrainian displaced communities and its will to position the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as part of its Recovery Plan, consequently contributing to the resilience of the displaced communities;
3. Encourages the State Party to share its experiences and project outcomes with the international community upon the completion of the project;
4. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
5. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 4.1

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/4 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-4_Rev.-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 02044 submitted by Botswana,
3. Takes note that Botswana has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Sustaining Seperu folk dance and associated practices**:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, this eighteen-month project aims to safeguard ‘Seperu folk dance and associated practices’, an element inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2019. The element involves singing, dancing and sacred rituals which are significant in the life of the communities in the Chobe District. The knowledge bearers and practitioners have continued to diminish in number, thus affecting the element’s visibility, continuity and transmission. The traditional methods of transmission are found to have been undermined due to modern lifestyles or livelihood requirements which, for example, distort and decontextualize the significance of certain practices, lead to a lack of adherence to taboos or deprive school children of the opportunity to learn about the element. The main objectives of the project are, among others, to support the transmission of the element to younger generations and to implement a series of activities that will contribute to the implementation of the safeguarding plan established at the time of the inscription of the element. The project seeks to support initiatives, led by practitioners, including capacity-building workshops and the establishment of intangible cultural heritage village committees and district associations.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Botswana has requested assistance in the amount of US$94,447 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 02044, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**:This request was submitted following wide consultations among communities from nine villages in the Chobe District where the Seperu folk dance and associated practices are performed. The project foresees the involvement of the communities concerned in the safeguarding activities, through the existing structures of traditional authorities, local cultural associations and the community of Seperu groups. Community members will participate in the capacity-building workshops, awareness-raising activities and fieldwork. The project emphasizes the central and active role of the communities throughout its implementation, from the planning to the monitoring and follow-up stages.

**Criterion A.2**:The budget is presented in a structured manner, corresponds to the planned activities and is consistent with the timeframe. The amount of assistance requested may therefore be considered as appropriate for the implementation of the proposed activities.

**Criterion A.3**: To contribute to the safeguarding of the element, the project proposes a set of eleven activities organized around six main components that will contribute to: a) ensuring the transmission of the practices related to the element to younger generations; b) strengthening the safeguarding capacities of the local communities; c) documenting and updating the inventory of the element; d) increasing the visibility of the element; and e) promoting an ethical production of the ‘*mushishi*’ dress by training designers. Many of the activities are geared to reflect on the economic aspects of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding in an effort to mitigate the negative impact of the decontextualization and commercialization of the practice in question. The proposed activities are presented in a logical manner and the timeframe seems to be realistic for achieving the expected results of the project.

**Criterion A.4**: The assistance will contribute to achieving lasting results in accordance with the programme objectives. Throughout the project, the activities will contribute to the implementation of the existing safeguarding plan by the communities and various stakeholders. The project will contribute to the establishment of Intangible Cultural Heritage Village Committees, the District Association of Sepuru and the Sepuru school clubs. The members of these organizations will be responsible for supporting the implementation of the 2003 Convention. Furthermore, the project will enable the master practitioners – *Ingongis* – to hand on their knowledge to younger generations, and this transmission will entail teaching students how to practice the Sepuru folk dance and songs. The participation of teachers could improve the knowledge and transmission of skills through the establishment of around ten school clubs in primary and secondary schools. Finally, young designers will be encouraged to continue the practice of ‘*mushishi*’ while understanding its cultural and social significance.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting States Party will contribute 6 per cent (US$5,553) of the total amount of the project budget (US$100,000). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the remaining 94 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project focuses on building the capacities of the communities to strengthen the viability of the element. In addition to renewing the training to the Chobe District Cultural Heritage Committee, the project will help decentralize the safeguarding responsibilities to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Village Committees in nine villages of Chobe District. Furthermore, the project will facilitate training sessions for coordinators of Seperu school clubs and support the efforts of the Ministry responsible for culture, which has already started training workshops for teachers and students. The capacity-building aspects of the project will also target selected dress makers, particularly young designers. In total, the project is expected to train 300 people on the safeguarding of the element.

**Criterion A.7**: Botswana has benefited from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the project entitled ‘Promotion of earthen ware pottery-making skills in Kgatleng district’ (file no. 01153, February 2017 – June 2018, US$68,261). The work stipulated by the contract related to this assistance was carried out in accordance with UNESCO regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope and its implementation involves national partners, including the Ministry of Culture, local non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project is expected to increase the visibility, viability and practice of the element and to incite other communities to safeguard their own intangible cultural heritage.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Botswana** for the project entitled **Sustaining Seperu folk dance and associated practices** and grants the amount of US$94,447 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Commends the requesting State for the safeguarding approach selected, which takes into account the economic aspect of the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in relation to people’s livelihoods and aims to mitigate the negative impact of the decontextualization and commercialization of the element concerned;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
4. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 4.2

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
2. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/4 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-4_Rev.-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 01931 submitted by Central African Republic,
3. Takes note that Central African Republic has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Pilot inventory of intangible cultural heritage of the communities of the Lobaye forest prefecture**:

To be implemented by the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism, the purpose of this eighteen-month project is to develop a pilot intangible cultural heritage inventory for twelve ethnocultural communities of the Lobaye forest prefecture. The area ‘Basse-Lobaye’ has also been designated as a Man and Biosphere reserve since 1977. More specifically, it aims to provide Central African Republic with its first intangible cultural heritage inventory. As part of the national cultural policy, the project will contribute to the training of human resources capable of conducting community-based inventories and inventorying operations, in collaboration with the communities concerned and academics. It also foresees a series of capacity-building training workshops, including on community-based inventories, data collection and processing, and communication activities to spread awareness about the project and about living heritage in general. It will thus lay the foundations for sustainable safeguarding of living heritage and the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention in the Central African Republic.

1. Further takes note that this assistance aims to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Central African Republic has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,997 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
3. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01931, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**:The initial request for International Assistance was prepared following consultations held in 2020 with three communities in the Lobaye region. As a result of the mission conducted by the expert who provided technical assistance to the State Party in August 2022, it was agreed that all the communities living in the region would be included, ensuring a more inclusive and participatory approach. Nine additional communities gave their consent to participate in the project. Altogether, participants from twelve communities were involved in the development of the International Assistance request. Furthermore, the project foresees that local community representatives will help identify members who will participate in training workshops, community-based inventorying workshops and fieldwork exercises. They will also participate in the planning, monitoring and follow-up of the project.

**Criterion A.2**:The budget is presented in a structured manner, corresponds to the planned activities and is consistent with the timeframe.

**Criterion A.3**: The request consists of twelve activities covering the following domains: the establishment of project coordination bodies; the purchase of equipment; capacity building; community-based inventories; fieldwork; documentation; awareness-raising; and project monitoring. The activities are presented in a logical sequence and correspond to the objectives and expected results outlined in the request.

**Criterion A.4**: The capacity-building workshops aim to establish a team of national facilitators to support the implementation of the Convention at national and local levels. This network of twenty-five trainers, equipped with knowledge about the 2003 Convention and skills to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, will be responsible for training communities on inventorying living heritage in the Lobaye region. Furthermore, the production of various communication materials throughout the project is expected to raise awareness among civil society and other stakeholders of the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and increasing its visibility. Finally, the project should result in the establishment of the first intangible cultural heritage inventory in Central African Republic, which is expected to be expanded to include other regions in the country in the future.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting States Party will contribute 18 per cent of the total amount of the project budget (US$122,363). Consequently, International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for 82 per cent of the total amount of the project budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The objective of the request is to strengthen local and national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. The project seeks to reinforce the capacities of governmental institutions and community representatives through specific training on the 2003 Convention and in particular community-based inventorying. Furthermore, communities are expected to contribute to the collection of information, the validation of the inventory results and the awareness-raising activities. It is expected that almost eighty people will benefit from the training sessions, including staff from the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism. As a result, the skills acquired during the project will make it possible to continue the inventory work and other safeguarding efforts in the country beyond the end of the project.

**Criterion A.7**: The State Party has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The proposed activities are local in scope and imply cooperation with local and national implementing partners including academics, cultural associations in the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding and the media.

**Paragraph 10(b)**:The pilot inventory and the communication materials developed during the project will contribute to raising awareness among communities about the importance of safeguarding their living heritage. It may have lasting results as it could also encourage similar initiatives to inventory intangible cultural heritage in other regions of Central African Republic.

1. Approves the International Assistance request from **Central African Republic** for the project entitled **Pilot inventory of intangible cultural heritage of the communities of the Lobaye forest prefecture** and grants the amount of US$99,997 to the State Party for this purpose;
2. Takes note of the positive experience of technical assistance provided to Central African Republic in the review of its request for International Assistance;
3. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the budget and work plan of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide sufficient justification of the expenditures;
4. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report to report on the use of the assistance granted.

**DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 4.3**

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,

2. Further recalling Decision [15.COM 2.BUR 3.5](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions-bureau/15.COM%202.BUR/3.5) and document [15.COM 2.BUR 3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-15.COM_2.BUR-3-EN.docx) concerning the original request submitted by South Sudan and examined by the Bureau in September 2020,

3. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/4 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-4_Rev.-EN.docx) as well as International Assistance request no. 01535 re-submitted in December 2022 by South Sudan,

4. Takes note that South Sudan has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Development of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan**:

Led by the Ministry of Culture, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Juba, the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NICHC) and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, this twenty-four-month project is aimed at developing an inventory of intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan in order to contribute to its safeguarding. Due to the ongoing social transitions in the country, coupled with a general lack of interest in cultural issues among young people, there is a strong need to make deliberate efforts to safeguard living heritage in the country. In this context, the project has three key objectives. Firstly, the project aims to raise awareness among various stakeholders about intangible cultural heritage, measures and mechanisms for safeguarding it, the 2003 Convention and its implementation modalities. Secondly, it will build capacities among members of six communities (Bari, Lokoya, Anyuak, Acholi, Dinka and Nuer) on the community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage, providing training to thirty participants (community members, culture officers and members of the NICHC). Thirdly, inventorying exercises will be conducted to document thirty-six elements of living heritage, which will be added to the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan. Videos will also be produced for the inventoried elements.

5. Further takes note that:

* + 1. this assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention;
    2. the State Party has requested International Assistance that will take the form of services from the Secretariat to the State; and
    3. the assistance therefore takes the form of the **provision of** **services from UNESCO** (100 per cent of the financial transactions are to be managed by UNESCO), pursuant to Article 21 (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the Convention;

6. Also takes note that South Sudan has requested assistance in the amount of US$99,474 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project, which will be implemented by the UNESCO Office in Juba in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage;

7. Understands that the UNESCO Office in Juba will be responsible for the management of the total amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, while the requesting State will be responsible for the coordination of the project, logistical organization of meetings and providing necessary equipment;

8. Decides that, from the information provided in file no. 01535, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: In preparation of the request, a broad consultation took place in August 2018 among representatives of the six communities involved in the project.During the implementation of the project, the inclusion of youth and gender balance will be ensured when selecting the participants. Furthermore, the heads of the target communities will also be involved in monitoring the project.

**Criterion A.2**: The budget is clearly explained, reflecting the planned activities and related expenses. The total amount of assistance requested is therefore judged to be appropriate and in line with the scope of the project to achieve the desired results.

**Criterion A.3**: The project proposes five main activities: capacity-building workshops on inventorying methodologies; three inventorying exercises to complete the full inventory of the target communities; the production of videos of the elements of intangible cultural heritage identified; the publication of the inventory; and the monitoring and evaluation of the project. The sequence of the proposed activities is logical and seems to be feasible with respect to the project duration and the expected results.

**Criterion A.4**: The project foresees awareness-raising activities on the safeguarding of living heritage that may continue beyond the duration of the project. These include promoting youth and gender inclusion when involving various communities in the development of the inventory, to ensure that capacities on safeguarding living heritage are built for future generations among different ethnolinguistic groups. Furthermore, the equipment used for this project will remain available for the communities involved for forthcoming updates to the inventory.

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State Party will contribute 3per cent and UNESCO will contribute (in kind) a further 4 per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested (US$106,931). Consequently, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund will cover 93 per cent of the overall budget.

**Criterion A.6**: The project places a strong emphasis on building capacities for the implementation of the Convention among community members and different stakeholders, who will be aware of the importance of the Convention when developing research processes and public policies for the benefit of the community.

**Criterion A.7**: South Sudan has not previously received any financial assistance from UNESCO under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of the 2003 Convention to implement similar or related activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and its implementation relies on the involvement of several foundations (i.e., the Maale Cultural Foundation, the Likikiri Collective, the Oruppaa Cultural Foundation and the Roots Project) in supporting communities’ efforts to safeguard their heritage.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The project is expected to promote safeguarding processes for other living heritage practices to be identified through inventorying, supported by the involvement of the communities.

9. Approves the International Assistance request from South Sudan, as revised, for the project entitled **Development of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan** and grants the amount of US$99,474 for the implementation of this project according to the modality described in paragraphs 6 and 7;

10. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to ensuring that the work plan and the budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund are detailed and specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of all the expenditures;

11. Invites the State Party to use Form ICH-04-Report when reporting on the use of the International Assistance provided.

DECISION 18.COM 1.BUR 5

The Bureau,

1. Having examined document [LHE/23/18.COM 1.BUR/5](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-23-18.COM_1.BUR-5-EN.docx),
2. Recalling Decision [17.COM 16](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/17.COM/16),
3. Further recalling Rule 4.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
4. Takes note of the request from the Republic of Botswana to change the venue for the eighteenth session of the Committee and reiterates its appreciation to Botswana for hosting the upcoming session;
5. Decides to hold the eighteenth session of the Committee in Kasane, Republic of Botswana from 4 to 9 December 2023.