

SAICH NEWS

Intangible Cultural Heritage Platform of Southern Africa

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A sub-regional UNESCO-ICH project



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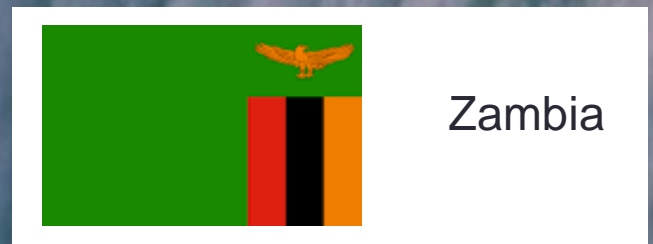
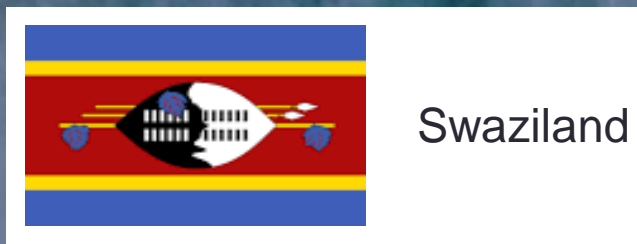
CHINHOYI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

UNESCO-Flanders SAICH PLATFORM

**UNESCO/FLANDERS PROJECT ON
STRENGTHENING SUB-REGIONAL
COOPERATION AND NATIONAL
CAPACITIES IN 7 SOUTHERN
AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE 2003 CONVENTION FOR THE
SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE**



Participating Countries



Supporting Partners



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“Cultural heritage includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants.”

Message from the Coordinator



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Greetings from Chirorodziva, the sacred pool that is now called Chinhoyi Caves, from which your SAICH Platform coordination team at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) draws inspiration while performing its tasks on behalf of the multiple partners in this sub-regional project on safeguarding of our intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Welcome to the very first issue of *SAICH News*, the newsletter of the Southern African ICH Cooperation Platform, which is hosted by CUT, located just six kilometers away from Chirorodziva. By way of introduction, let me start by referring our general readers to our website <http://saich.org/saich/> where they will get background information and details of our activities as the SAICH Platform. This will give everyone a fuller appreciation of the overview of the work and achievements of this cooperative venture that we give in this inaugural issue of *SAICH News*. However, since this is our very first issue, let us start with a very brief explanation of what the platform is, and of its partners, background, current project and agenda going forward.

The Southern African Intangible Cultural Heritage Cooperation Platform (SAICH Platform) was created in February 2015 by the partners in the sub-regional project on capacity-building and strengthening of cooperation in implementing the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in seven countries in Southern Africa. The participating countries in this major ICH safeguarding project are Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SAICH Platform operates under the auspices of UNESCO and with funding from the Flanders Government. The role of CUT is to provide technical and secretariat services for the partners in the whole project in order to ensure that the critical mass for ICH activities in the sub-region is maintained and built further during and beyond the life of the current project. This work entails building a vibrant sub-regional platform for the protection, preservation and promotion of the ICH in the seven participating countries.

As part of its technical support for project, the SAICH Platform at CUT has developed an interactive website and a database of ICH information within the sub-region as a collective resource for the countries concerned and for humanity. Thus the SAICH Platform is already set to become the regional hub of cooperation, networking, exchanges and support services for implementing activities and programs that link culture, technology and sustainable development. Future issues of *SAICH News* will focus more on activities on the ground in the seven participating countries. In this first issue, we hope that you will enjoy reading and learning about the journey that the partners in the SAICH Platform have travelled so far.

Prof. Herbert Chimhundu [DPhil, FZAS]
SAICH Platform Coordinator
Chinhoyi University of Technology

Special Message from the UNESCO Regional Cultural Advisor



Mr. Damir Dijakovic
Regional Cultural Advisor
UNESCO Regional Office
for Southern Africa, Harare

3 The term 'cultural heritage' has changed content considerably in recent decades, partially owing to the instruments developed by UNESCO. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as: oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. Here is a brief account on what actually took place since 2009 and how seven Southern African countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe (States Parties to the Convention) – arrived at an advanced stage of ICH safeguarding.

Flanders Government support

In June 2009, the UNESCO Windhoek Office received financial contribution from the Flanders Government to organise a series of pilot projects in community-based intangible heritage inventorying on a grassroots level in six selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project, which comprised of several phases lasting till October 2011, aimed at conducting a series of pilot Intangible Cultural Heritage inventory-making activities on a grassroots level in six Sub-Saharan African countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia. In the same vein, another project took place from March 2011-March 2013. It was entitled "Strengthening national capacities for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in four selected countries in Africa" and involved Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. During the same period, Namibia adopted a similar approach through the MDG-F Joint Programme on Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia. Through these projects, the national authorities of the concerned countries, together with communities, have been able to devise cost-effective tools and methodologies to safeguard the ICH, which created the future basis for nationwide ICH inventorying exercises.

Further support of the Government of Flanders

A major breakthrough took place in 2013. The Government of Flanders decided to support the achieved results in the Southern African sub-region and to accept the proposal which would bring all the Southern African countries on the same page, thus strengthening their cooperation for ICH safeguarding. The project entitled "Strengthening sub-regional cooperation and national capacities in seven Southern African countries for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" took place in 2014 and ended in March 2015. It achieved the consensus and creation of a sub-regional cooperation platform to support seven countries in Southern Africa in their efforts to safeguard the living heritage present in their territories. Consolidating the results of previous Flanders funded projects, this platform will be driven by the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committees of the beneficiary countries. The project paid due attention to the adequacy of institutional environments, abilities to set up or revise legislative and policy frameworks and the availability of national expertise. Concrete outputs of the project include a pool of resource persons operational in the region and the revisions of policy or legislative frameworks.

The results achieved insured the creation of the National ICH Committees, national capacity development, strong links to the communities inclusive of systematic capacity building for identification, inventorying and safeguarding of ICH. At the regional level, strong cooperation among the concerned countries resulted in the creation of a cooperation platform, currently hosted at the Chinhoyi University of Technology in Zimbabwe. Major recognition of these achievements took place during the 10th Intergovernmental Committee meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2015.

Current phase of the project

Recognizing these achievements, the Government of Flanders decided to extend their support to the Southern African partners once again in January 2016. Implementation of the second phase of the project "Strengthening sub-regional cooperation and national capacities in seven Southern African countries for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" started in March 2016. One of the major expected achievements of this phase will be the completion of the digital national ICH inventories, overall strengthening of both the national and sub-regional ICH safeguarding mechanisms, as well as strengthening of the awareness-raising means where this SAICH newsletter paves the way.

Highlights from 2015

Creation of the SAICH Platform

The SAICH Platform was created during the closing workshop of the last phase of the UNESCO-Flanders project on capacity-building and strengthening cooperation in implementing the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in seven countries in Southern Africa, which was hosted by Chinhoyi University of Technology in February 2015. The mission of the Platform is to build a vibrant sub-regional platform for the protection, preservation and promotion of the ICH. Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) in

Zimbabwe is the host institution that provides secretariat and technical support services for the Platform and links up with the National ICH Committees or Focal Points in the seven participating countries to coordinate the activities of the project and to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information on the ICH inventory-making process for the sub-region. The technical capabilities of CUT have been placed at the disposal of this project and the impact is already quite visible.

SAICH at COM 10 Namibia

The SAICH Cooperation Platform formally launched its ICH database on 30 November 2015 during the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), which was hosted by Namibia in the capital Windhoek. This major UNESCO event brought together more than 500 participants from all over the world. CUT was represented by a four-member team that was led by Professor Herbert Chimhundu, the Coordinator of the SAICH Platform. The other three members were Dr. Manase Chiweshe of the Centre for Development Studies, Dr. Biggie Samwanda then of the School of Art and Design, and Mr. Tichaona Miti of the Department of Information and Communication Technology. One of the highlights of the whole programme was a side event titled *Passing it on: Inventorying living heritage in Africa*, which was held on 30 November 2015. The side event featured the work of the SAICH Platform. Items were presented from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe to share some concrete results of UNESCO capacity-building projects. Thus the Zimbabwe presentation was effectively a launch of the SAICH Platform's database that was developed by the ICT Department at CUT under the expertise of Mr. Miti and Mr. Shake-more Chinofunga. Besides launching the database, the CUT team was involved in providing detailed tutorials to delegates from SAICH Platform member states. The database is the first of its kind across the ICH regions worldwide and it has generated a lot of interest beyond the sub-region. So has the SAICH Platform as a concept. This interest is still very much alive and inquiries are still coming in from diverse quarters. During the Zimbabwe presentation, UNESCO expert Mr. Stephen Chifunyise gave a narrative summary of the activities of the UNESCO/Flanders Government sub-regional project on capacity-building and strengthening cooperation in implementing the 2003 ICH Convention in Southern Africa since 2010. Professor Chimhundu then indicated the background to the establishment of the SAICH Platform at CUT in 2015, explained the role of the University in providing secretariat and technical support services, and outlined a vision for the future of the Platform and the vast possibilities that were now provided by the development of the SAICH database.



Mr. Chifunyise and Prof. Chimhundu presenting at COM 10



Ms Freda Tawana (middle) and fellow participants in SAICH workshop during COM10



From Left: Dr. Samwanda, Mr. Mazibuko, and Dr. Chiweshe in Windhoek, Namibia, during COM 10.

The SAICH Database

In 2015, the UNESCO SAICH Platform at CUT developed an interactive website for the Platform members and a database of ICH information within the sub-region as a collective resource for the participating countries. The SAICH database has several features that make it fit for purpose, user friendly and secure. It has the same structure as the model framework of the ICH inventorying form. It is easy to add new elements, search for elements and edit element information. You can group elements by users, i.e. data capturers or data entry operators, by provinces and by districts. You can also upload audio-visual files. The security features are very good. The system tracks user activity; so there is an audit trail. Only authorised people can access the elements, and an element can only be edited by the owner, i.e. the responsible person in the relevant participating country. All the information is stored in a secure database which is password protected. Each participating country is now using exactly the same database design to create, compile and upload files on ICH elements from community-based inventorying activities in its own territory. From these efforts, a regional ICH database is being developed simultaneously. CUT has thus initiated an innovative process that has far-reaching implications for the documentation and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. This also signals the increased role and participation of universities and research centres in ICH activities in Africa, in particular by providing field practitioners and custodian communities with much needed technology applications and tools. Going forward, CUT is geared to continue to provide an innovative edge to the process of safeguarding ICH. As a matter of fact, since the last workshop of the Platform in March 2016, more work has been done to improve the database and to enhance the capacity of the SAICH tech unit at CUT. The latest position is that a new SAICH server has been purchased, prepared and hosted on CUT domain. It is now accessible to the partners in the Platform at <www.cut.ac.zw/saich> and the administrator, Mr. Tichaona Miti, has added users to the database. In addition, a public IP has been purchased which gives SAICH its own domain, with the address <www.saich.org>. At the same time, Mr. Miti and Mr. Shake-more Chinofunga, the two IT experts who are running the SAICH tech hub at CUT, are always available to take comments and suggestions for further system improvements. So far everyone concerned is happy with the enhanced capacity of the improved database. What remains is for the SAICH partners to upload content and to fully utilise the enhanced database, which is now the main challenge that has been given to the National ICH Committees.



Mr. Miti, IT expert (with Mr. Djakovic) demonstrating the SAICH database



The seven participating countries in the SAICH Platform shaded in green



Mr. Thabo Leanya and Ms Tokelo Mapena Lesotho delegates to the February 2015 workshop (up front)



Senior officials during the opening session of the SAICH workshop at CUT in February 2015

Highlights from 2016

Workshop 1 of project phase 2016-17

The UNESCO SAICH Cooperation Platform held its second training and planning workshop at CUT Hotel from 15-16 March, 2016. This was Workshop 1 of the 2016-17 phase of the Project. All seven participating countries were represented, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The objectives of the March 2016 workshop were to ensure that the National ICH Committees of all the seven participating countries are made operational and effective, to conduct practical training for efficient and effective use of the SAICH database that was developed at CUT in

2015, further strengthening the role of the sub-regional cooperation platform, addressing new challenges on policy-related work that includes accessing stakeholders in the implementation of the 2003 ICH Convention, as well as developing detailed work plans at the national level for the new funding period in order to ensure that the current phase of the project is finalized by mid-March 2017. All these objectives were elaborated during the deliberations and work is now well underway to achieve them following the agreed work plans and timetables.

Activating the CUT ICH Researchers' Group



Members of the CUT ICH Researchers' Group at Harare ROSA

Early in 2016, the Coordinators of the SAICH Platform, who are senior academics in the Institute of Lifelong Learning and Development Studies at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), activated the CUT ICH Researchers' Group that was formed in 2015 but had been dormant. The group is made up of CUT staff who have research interests in various aspects of cultural heritage, which they are pursuing from the vantage points of their own disciplines. Members of the group have welcomed the opportunity to take advantage of the University's host status to create their own forum and possibly also to initiate new projects. On 3 May 2016, the researchers were hosted at the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) for a workshop. The workshop was meant to introduce researchers at CUT to the UNESCO system and also to provide space for planning of future activities and events. Resource persons from UNESCO and the Zimbabwe National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NICH Committee) led the discussions, which were wide-ranging and tapped into the multi-disciplinary composition of the CUT ICH team. It is hoped that NICH Committees in the other participating countries will similarly encourage researchers in their higher education institutions to contribute to ICH safeguarding activities.

"The CUT ICH Researchers' Group is made up of CUT staff who have research interests in various aspects of cultural heritage, which they are pursuing from the vantage points of their own disciplines."




Awareness raising –

SAICH Platform at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair

Exhibitions are a great opportunity to engage with the public and to build possible client lists and create lasting relationships. The Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) 2016 was an exciting and inspiring platform for the CUT-ICH marketing and publicity team because it generally targeted people involved or interested in the education sector who included researchers from different academic institutions. It also attracted many cultural practitioners, artists, business people, captains of industry and other local and international visitors. The Fair was a striking opportunity for the SAICH team because these exhibitions are open to a large and diverse range of audiences. Therefore, ZITF 2016 provided a very good platform to drive the awareness raising campaign and to deliver knowledge about intangible cultural heritage. The main objectives for participation in the ZITF 2016 were to introduce the UNESCO SAICH Platform to various publics, to explain the major aspects of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to give a practical demonstration of the SAICH database and to interact with people drawn from as many custodian communities as possible with a view to raising awareness on the need for, and benefits of, safeguarding their ICH elements. The SAICH exhibition was accommodated within the stand of Chinhoyi University of Technology.



SAICH team member Mr. Shakemore Chinofunga speaks with an interested researcher

A woman with dark skin is shown from the chest up, sitting on the ground. She is wearing a vibrant green headscarf with red and yellow circular patterns. Her white short-sleeved top has colorful embroidery. She is adorned with several long necklaces of small gold beads. She is looking off to the side with a focused expression. In front of her is a large, dark, well-used metal pot sitting over a fire. Steam is rising from the pot. She is holding a long wooden spoon that is partially submerged in the pot. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with some smoke or steam in the air.

Salt extraction using indigenous knowledge by a Shangani/ Tsonga woman during the Great Limpopo Cultural Trade Fair.

Outreach program

Participation at the Great Limpopo Cultural Trade Fair

Team members in the SAICH Platform at CUT participated at the Great Limpopo Cultural Trade Fair (GLCTF), which was held from 28 to 30 July 2016 at Boli Muhlangueni in Chiredzi District, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe. The GLCTF is an annual event that is organised by the Centre for Cultural Development Initiatives (CCDI) under the auspices of the Gaza Trust. CCDI/ Gaza Trust has a special working relationship with the SAICH Platform at CUT.

The 2016 Fair was actually the fourth edition. Various segments and activities of this Fair that define the way of living of the people in the trans-Limpopo region were observed. Altogether they represent living heritage that needs to be safeguarded and promoted. Some activities relating to indigenous technology of value addition to natural resources that were showcased included basket making and preservation of wild fruits. The basket making process is mainly done by women. Skills are passed on inter-generationally. Practitioners are taught how to identify the appropriate materials for specific baskets. Such materials include *tsanga* (reeds) from rivers, *muraralilala* (*hyphaene ventricosa* Kirk), *nhokwe* (*Cyperus digitatus*), *furi* (*Coleochloa setifera*) and the bark of baobab trees (*Adansonia digitata*). Out of these materials' strength, elasticity, durability, moisture absorption behaviour, etc., several types of baskets are made for specific purposes.

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The identified material goes through several stages in preparation for weaving, starting from the way it is harvested and its treatment. Sustainable harvesting is practices to ensure that the plant shoots in the following rainy season. Materials are dyed using different tree barks for different colours. Dyeing skills are passed down from generation to generation. The skills for making various types of baskets are the preserve of this group of women.

Wild fruits are also preserved. It was noted that among the fruits that are preserved is *bhubhunu* (*Grewia* spp), which is harvested when in season and then sun dried. Mortar and pestle are used to remove the outer skin of the fruit and it is ready for consumption. It can be served with fresh milk. *Hwakwa* (*Strychnos madagascariensis*) is another fruit that is harvested when in season. The seeds (together with the edible stuff) are dried slowly on charcoal fire. These are later consumed after preparation in various ways. Other fruits that are harvested are baobab, *marula* nuts and *nyii* (*Berchemia discolor*).

Another ICH practice that has been preserved and is still being practised is salt extraction. Soil or mud is extracted from the salt pan. Water is filtered through the soil and collected for heating. When the heated water evaporates, it leaves the salt behind. The process was demonstrated during the Fair.

Traditional dances were also showcased. It was noted that all the dances have social meaning. For instance, some dances are praise dances, while others celebrate post-initiation. It was also observed that children's games are characterised with mind teasing activities that enhance cognitive development. Also observed were materials relating to clothes and attire such as head dress for males and women, for the young and old, and for those in authority like chiefs, and for members of the general public. There are specific types of cloths for different genders; for example, the *chibhabhera* is for women. Similarly, beads are woven and they are worn for different purposes.



Collage of photos showing different activities during the Great Limpopo Cultural Trade Fair



Facilitators and some of the ICH workshop participants during the conference at CUT

ICH Workshop during International Conference at CUT

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From 2 to 5 August 2016, the Institute of Lifelong Learning and Development Studies of the Chinhoyi University of Technology hosted an international conference on the theme “Interfacing Technology, Language and Knowledge Management with Sustainable Development”. The conference explored the nexus between technology, language, indigenous knowledge, development and sustainability. This conference, which was held at the CUT Hotel, focused on four different but interwoven sub-themes:

- Technology: Linking Science, Technology and Society with Sustainable Development.
- Language and Communication: Language and ICTs as Cross-cutting Enablers in Education and Communication for Development.
- Indigenous and Local Knowledge: The Knowledge Economy - Indigenous, Local and Global Knowledge.
- Sustainable Development: Technology and Innovative Perspectives for Sustainable Development.

These sub-themes are significant because they all have a bearing on different aspects of ICH safeguarding such as inventorying, promotion and awareness raising. One of the keynote papers was entitled “Linking language with living heritage”. Among the papers presented were titles like “Linking community-based inventorying of the ICH with corpus building and terminology development” and “Community effort in water, sanitation and hygiene (Wash) service delivery”, to give but two examples. There was also an online presentation on “The *Tsammalex* database on plants and animals.” In addition, three workshops were also held during the conference. One of the workshops was actually on “Applying for International Assistance” for ICH projects.



The purpose of this workshop was to provide an opportunity for members of the CUT ICH Researchers' Group to have their draft project proposals reviewed and critiqued with guidance from two Zimbabwean ICH experts. The two experts who guided the proceedings were Mr. Stephen Chifunyise, the Chairman of the Zimbabwe NICH Committee, and Ms Daphne Murkaronda, the Deputy Secretary General of the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO.

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This workshop was a hands-on training exercise where members of the CUT ICH Researchers' Group were taken through the paces, with each one of the three draft application forms that had been filled being critically analysed. Feedback was provided immediately during and after each presentation. The purpose of the training was to impart the requisite skills so that CUT researchers interested in ICH can apply for international funding to enable them to carry out inventorying and safeguarding activities together with targeted communities. The exercise was important because when members finalised their applications afterwards, their foci had become sharper, the objectives were clearer, and so were the links between the planned activities and expected outcomes. Two international assistance requests for inventorying projects of less than \$100,000.00 each have since been polished up and submitted as CUT's intended contribution to the efforts of the Zimbabwe NICH Committee. One of the applications is on oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage and social practices, rituals and festive events. The other one is on traditional knowledge about, and cultural practices that relate to, nature and the universe with particular reference to biodiversity and conservation.

Summaries of four country reports

A lot has been happening in the area of ICH inventorying or ICH identification and documentation in communities in the seven participating countries since the last workshop of the SAICH Platform was held in March 2016. Mid-term reports for the current phase of the UNESCO/Flanders ICH Project in Southern Africa were due at the time of writing. So in this issue we present summaries of country reports from four of the seven participating countries. Summaries of reports from the other three countries will be featured in the next issue. The four countries that are featured in this first issue of SAICH News are Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Malawi

Malawi has taken seriously the call for NICH Committees to get onto the ground and train community members in inventorying of their intangible cultural heritage. To this end, the country has made noteworthy steps forward in making certain that ICH inventorying is ably handled and that its national ICH database is easily and publicly accessible on the SAICH sub-regional website. To ensure that this takes off the ground, five members were nominated to carry out this important and significant undertaking. The nominated members are Mr. Lovemore C. Mazibuko, Mr. Christopher Magomelo, Mr Emmanuel Mwale, Mrs. Mphatso Kazembe and Miss Kettie Kansinde.

In addition to the appointment of these five to manage the National ICH Database, Malawi has gone ahead and conducted one community-based inventorying workshop in Mangochi District, in southern Malawi. This inventorying workshop was attended by eight community members who came in as trainees. The people who attended the workshop as trainees were mostly primary school teachers and they are members of the Chibanja cha a Yao, a cultural grouping for the Yao. The aim of the workshop was to build capacity towards implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Of the 8 people who were trained, 4 are males and 4 are females. In addition to these 8, there were also 4 other participants who had previously attended a Training of Trainers Workshop in 2014. These 4 were engaged as trainers, namely Mr. Matthews Mfune, Miss Linda Kolomba, Mr. Mustafa Pemba and Ms Ivy Iman.

It is encouraging to note that the training that the Malawi NICH Committee undertook had positive outcomes. The trainers managed to demonstrate their ability to conduct community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage by successfully running the training programme. The same training workshop also successfully empowered 8 community members in community-based inventorying of ICH. These 8 trained members are now capable of documenting ICH elements. To ensure that the training was effective, the community trainees together with the trainers went on to inventory two Yao elements:

- basket making; and
- playing of the *bawo* game of the Yao.

This *bawo* game is even played at a competitive level among the Yao themselves.

Mr. Lovemore C. Mazibuko



Above: Participants in session during the ICH workshop in Mangochi, Malawi.
Below: A team of Yao bawo players.





Ms Temahlubi Nkambule-Dlamini

Swaziland

Swaziland has similarly been busy with the work of the sub-regional ICH project. In this regard, August 2016 has been a hectic month, with several NICH Committee meetings taking place during the course of that month. The main focus of these meetings was on how best to safeguard, preserve and promote the country's living heritage.

The meetings had one key activity, a workshop that was held to enhance the capacity of the NICH Committee, as well as the chairperson. This workshop was attended by 21 members.

Besides the meetings, an important outcome of these activities in Swaziland was that six (6) ICH elements were documented. These are:

- *Kuphehla luvatsi* (traditional way of making fire);
- *Kweluka tintsambo tekufulela* (making of traditional roofing ropes);
- *Kufica sidziya* (making of married women's traditional apron);
- *Kwakha makhoyane* (making of traditional music instrument);
- *Kweluka likhenya* (making of traditional roofing mats); and
- *Kwacha umuti* (traditional way of building unity in families).

The Swaziland focal person and the NICH Committee are working on formulating a constitution that will guide the work of the committee, while at the same time they are also working on the country's National ICH Database.

“The main focus of these meetings was on how best to safeguard, preserve and promote the country's living heritage.”

Zambia

Zambia has 11 NICH Committee members who come from 7 different organizations, namely: the Department of Arts and Culture, University of Zambia, Zambia National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, Lusaka National Museum, National Heritage Conservation Commission, and the National Archives of Zambia. The Department of Arts and Culture is both the Chair and Secretariat of the Committee. In addition to these, the country's database focal persons are Mr. Munukayumbwa Munyima, who is the SAICH Platform focal point for Zambia, and Ms. Sylvia Mwando who is assigned the responsibility to administer the Zambian NICH Database.

The country has also embarked on ICH inventorying and safeguarding activities through community-based inventorying. Zambia has undertaken a workshop on community-based ICH inventorying within the framework of the Flanders Government financed project on 'Strengthening sub-regional cooperation and national capacities in seven Southern African countries for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'. This activity took place from 25 to 29 July 2016 in Kabwe in the Central Province of Zambia. The training workshop had a total of 18 participants. Among these 18 participants were 5 community members who were trained and awarded certificates for their participation and for having successfully completed the training. This workshop was also important because, besides training new members, it was designed to reaffirm and ascertain the skills of some of the experts that were trained in a capacity building workshop in Kabwe in 2014. In this workshop, those who were trained in 2014 were given an opportunity to facilitate different sessions of the community inventory training modules. The end of the training and facilitation programme saw 5 participants who had excelled being awarded certificates of appreciation and acknowledgement that give them room to practice as ICH experts.

The newly trained community based ICH inventorying team was taken to the field where they carried out a field inventorying exercise among the Lenje people of Chief Chipepo in Nansenga area of Kapiri Mposhi District. The field exercise resulted in complete inventorying and safeguarding plans for three ICH elements:

- Traditional medicine for fertility;
- *Ba Chooba* dance; and
- Brewing of 'Seven days' traditional beer.

The Zambian NICH Committee has realised that a lot needs to be done in the area of ICH Inventorying. With this task in mind, the Committee has submitted a request for International Assistance of more than US\$100,000 to UNESCO Paris before the end of March 2016.

Mr. Munukayumbwa Munyima

Newsflash - ICH policy development workshop in Lusaka, Zambia

Most recently, a UNESCO Workshop on Policy Development in the Field of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Southern Africa was held at Mika Lodge, Lusaka, Zambia from 2-5 October 2016. The workshop was convened by Mr. Munukayumbwa Munyima and hosted by the Zambia National Commission for UNESCO. It brought together ICH

experts from the seven countries in the SAICH Platform to discuss and come up with strategies on how to best provide advisory services on matters relating to the development of policies and legislation in the field of intangible cultural heritage at national level.

(Full story in the next issue.)



Dance performance during opening session of the workshop



Workshop facilitator Mr. Lovemore Mazibuko making a presentation



Dr. Biggie Samwanda

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has embarked on an exercise to build the critical mass of expertise in ICH for the country. This is to ensure that the ICH inventorying programme is made sustainable. To achieve this objective, the first workshop on Training of Trainers (ToT) was held for two days internally in the Head Office of the mother Ministry of Rural Development, Preservation and Promotion of National Cultural Heritage. During this workshop, which was held from 20 to 21 August 2016, Ms D. Mukaronda, the Deputy Secretary General of the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), was the assessor. There were 9 officers from the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage who participated. Other participants came from other government units, with one coming from the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ) and another one coming from the National Archives of Zimbabwe. The Trainers were Ms C. Mthombeni from the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ) and Ms P. Viriri and Ms C. Manuhwa from the Ministry of Rural Development, Preservation and Promotion of National Cultural Heritage. The latter two also doubled as the ICH trainers of trainers who themselves had been previously been trained in the ICH Convention in 2012 and 2014, respectively.

There was a second ToT workshop that was done in Zvishavane, in Zimbabwe's Midlands Province. This training workshop was in two parts, with one part focusing on the theoretical components of ICH and the 2003 Convention, and the second part focusing on the practical aspects of fieldwork on community-based inventorying. This second part of the training exercise was conducted in Mberengwa district. In this ToT workshop, 6 ICH officers came from Masvingo, Mberengwa, Gokwe North, Binga and Zvishavane, while two came from the Ministry Head Office in Harare. To ensure that the training was not confined to one Ministry, one participant came from the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and another one came from National Archives of Zimbabwe's Bulawayo station. The majority of the workshop participants were drawn from the target community, that of the VaRemba. The VaRemba community participants were as follows: a princess, the VaRemba chief, Chief Mposi, two headmen, five elders of the VaRemba Culture Association and two other chiefs who are not Remba who come from Zvishavane District.

Although the training of trainers' workshop involved other people besides the Remba, the training exercise's target was the Remba community. Its target was the Remba of Ward 16 under Chief Mposi of Mberengwa District, Midlands Province. In the community-based inventorying activities that were done, a total of three nomination files relating to the physical and spiritual life of the Remba were compiled. These files were on the *bira*, *dzingiso* and *komba* respectively:

- *Bira* is a ritual meant to bring back the spirit of the dead for the purposes of taking care of the family and reuniting that spirit with God.
- *Dzingiso* is a male initiation process for all Remba males aged 8-15 years that is undertaken in winter for three consecutive months in an identified forest that is close to water bodies and game. It is carried out under the tutelage of Remba elderly men.
- *Komba* is a female initiation ceremony that is meant for both girls and women from the menstruation stage and it is done annually in winter, usually from April-July. As in the case of *dzingiso*, this rite of passage is also done close to water bodies under the watchful eyes of selected elderly women from within the Remba community.

To make sure that they got buy-in from the community, the inventorying team began by raising awareness on the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Through this activity the participants were then equipped with the practical skills that are important for those who participate in community-based inventorying. The awareness raising activity involved a total of 20 females broken down as follows: 2 Arts, Culture and Heritage Officers within the Ministry, 1 officer from the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and 17 women drawn from the Remba community. There were 26 males who were also as follows: 4 Arts, Culture and Heritage officers from the Ministry, 1 officer from the National Archives of Zimbabwe and 21 men comprising youths and elders drawn from the Remba community who were trained. These trained participants were the ones who went into the field and identified what the community wanted inventoried and practically carried out community-based inventorying in Mberengwa District.

A Futuristic Perspective of SAICH

As we have already boldly stated in the “Message from the Coordinator” in this inaugural issue of *SAICH News*, the SAICH Platform is set to become the regional hub of cooperation, networking, exchanges and support services for implementing activities and programmes that link culture, technology and sustainable development. In a longer-term perspective, the potential that can be achieved is immense.

One can already see the Platform growing and developing the capacity to, among other things:

- provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information on the ICH inventory-making process for the sub-region and on other issues related to culture and the arts;
- create opportunities for exchange and sharing of ideas on safeguarding activities and to encourage networking through new media;
- promote exchange activities and partnerships between the seven participating countries, within the Southern Africa region, and beyond; spearhead activities relating to community participation in inventorying, safeguarding and promotion of the ICH;
- organise meetings, workshops, conferences and events relating to the 2003 ICH Convention in the region on a rotational basis with each country being given the chance to host and coordinate;
- publish its own newsletter and other text, audio and visual materials in digital form for wide distribution, as well as documentaries, articles in journals and academic books;
- build and expand a rich and widely accessible resource of a diverse range of materials for research purposes and for public consumption; and
- further strengthen national capacities and sub-regional cooperation in implementing both the 2003 ICH Convention and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by building and continually updating cultural statistics databases in order to provide comprehensive reference resources that are accessible to all for use as online repositories of knowledge that will, in turn, inform policy and guide safeguarding measures and strategies for incorporating culture as a cross-cutting issue in sustainable development in the sub-region. There are also real possibilities that universities in the participating countries will grow in expertise in specific cross-disciplinary areas as they collaborate in research and help to inform policy that will create a conducive environment in which the creative and cultural industries can thrive. At the same time, quicker spinoffs are likely to include the development of regional university programmes, networking and exchanges.



Upcoming Events

- **Awareness raising and inventoring workshop on *mbira***
From 24 - 26 October 2016, an awareness raising workshop of the UNESCO 2003 Convention on ICH will be held in tandem with community-based inventoring of the *mbira* musical instrument at Dzimbanhete Arts Interactions, Norton, Zimbabwe.
- **COM 11 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
The eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Visit <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/11.com>



Researcher profile

Munukayumbwa Munyima
INESOR, University of Zambia

In this issue, we profile the distinguished Zambian researcher, Mr. Munukayumbwa Munyima, who is a leading member of the SAICH Platform, for which he is also Zambia's focal point person. Mr. Munyima is a Research Fellow in the Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR) at the University of Zambia in Lusaka. He holds a Master of Letters (MLitt) in Cultural Anthropology from James Cook University, Australia. His MLitt focused on cultural and natural heritage management, with case studies on the Great Barrier Reef and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

He is currently the Coordinator of the Socio-cultural Research Programme of INESOR. For more than two decades, he has been involved in cultural research in Zambia. Prior to joining the University of Zambia, he worked for the National Heritage Conservation Commission in Zambia as a Conservation Anthropologist for 8 years and later as Regional Director for 10 years. He has co-authored a number of articles, including "The Role of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Preserving Zambia's Heritage," in *Zambia Journal of Library and Information Science Vol. 1, Issue 1*, 2013. He is currently attending to reviewers' comments on a manuscript on "Challenges in Managing Immovable Cultural Heritage for Tourism in Zambia".

For his sterling work over the years, Mr. Munyima has been recognised both at home and internationally. He is currently an Intangible Cultural Heritage Expert and a member of the Zambia National ICH Committee, both of which are provided for in the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Zambia is currently a member of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Mr. Munyima is Zambia's representative on the IGC. Recently, he was also elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS).

[For ACHS, follow link:

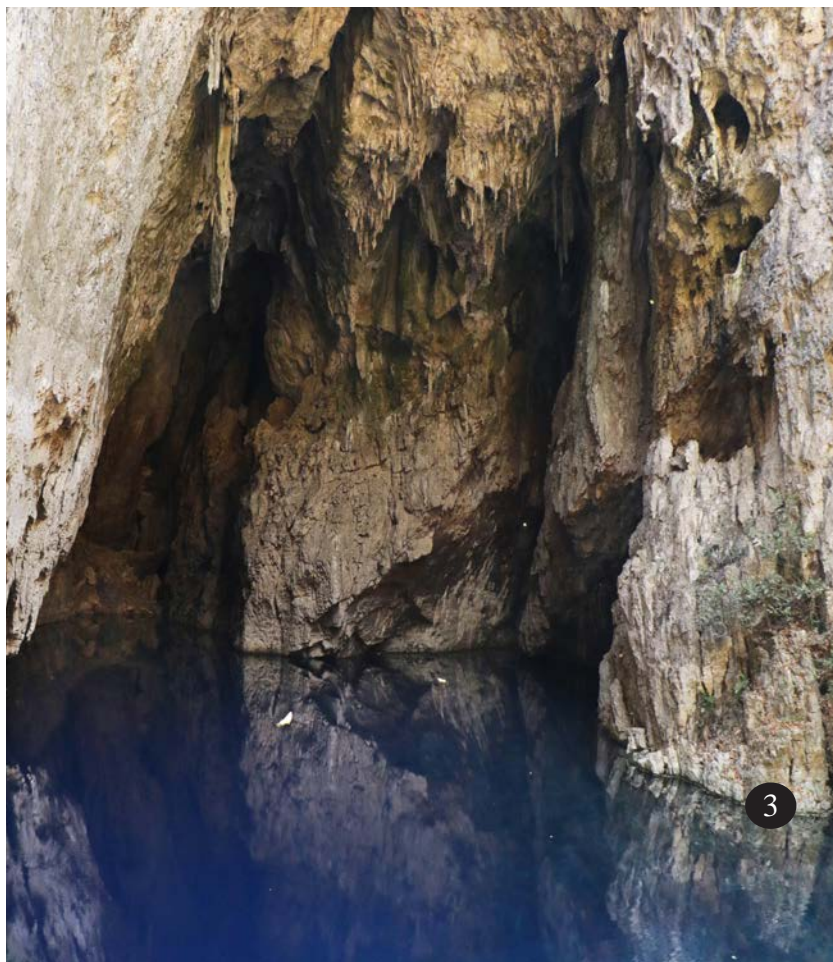
<http://www.criticalheritagestudies.org/executive-committee-1/>

Contact: m.munyima@unza.zm and munyimam@yahoo.co.uk]

*“For more than two decades,
he has been involved in
cultural research in Zambia.”*

SAICH

in Pictures



1. Ms Nakiso Kubanji of Botswana during March 2016 Workshop
2. Mr Ishmael Sam of Namibia during March 2016 Workshop
3. Inside Chirorodziva/ Chinhoyi Caves
4. Group photo from March 2016 Workshop

Photographs by: Eugene Ncube





VaRemba Princess Wonai Mawerewere publicly consenting to participate in the ICH inventoring exercise, Mberengwa District, Zimbabwe

