**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE**

**INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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

**Sixteenth session**

**Online**

**13 to 18 December 2021**

**Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund:**

**voluntary supplementary contributions and other issues**

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| **Summary**  In accordance with Article 25.5 of the Convention, the Committee may accept contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for specific purposes relating to specific projects, provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee. The present document: (1) reports on such contributions and other types of voluntary contributions received since the Committee’s fourteenth session in December 2019; and (2) presents two funding priorities for the period 2022-2025.  **Decision required:** paragraph 23 |

1. Chapter VI of the Convention, concerning the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereafter, ‘the Fund’), establishes that States Parties may wish to make voluntary supplementary contributions (Article 27) in addition to their assessed contributions (Article 26). Such contributions may be made in favor of specific projects, ‘provided that those projects have been approved by the Committee’, according to Article 25.5.
2. Due to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the organization of the fifteenth session of the Committee as a fully online meeting in December 2020, the Committee adopted an agenda with fewer items and no item was dedicated to voluntary supplementary contributions. Therefore, the Committee at the present session is presented with a report on the progress made in the implementation of any voluntary supplementary contributions it has received since the fourteenth session in 2019 (Decision [14.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/6)). Furthermore, the Committee took note that States make use of different forms of support to the Convention, financial and in-kind, and not only of voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund (Decision [7.COM 20.1](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Decisions/7.COM/20.1)). The Secretariat is therefore requested to report at each session of the Committee on all forms of contributions received since the previous session. Accordingly, the list of contributions in support of the 2003 Convention received between the fourteenth session of the Committee and June 2021 is annexed to the present document.
3. At its twelfth session, the Committee approved two funding priorities for the period 2018–2021: (1) ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contribute to sustainable development’ to continue efforts to extend the reach and effectiveness of the global capacity‑building strategy; and (2) ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, an initiative established in response to Article 2 of the Convention that defines transmission through formal and non-formal education as a safeguarding measure (Decision [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6)). The resource mobilization targets set for the two funding priorities were US$5 million and US$2 million, respectively, for the period 2018–2021.
4. **State of affairs**
5. During the 2018–2021 quadrennium (up to 30 June 2021), a total of eighteen voluntary supplementary contributions were received for a total amount of US$1,276,661 with the following distribution across funding priorities and initiatives:
6. Compared with the previous four-year period 2014–2017, the volume of voluntary supplementary contributions from January 2018 to June 2021 has been divided approximately by two. In recent years, it was considered that one of the main causes for the decreasing level of voluntary contributions was the growing amount of funding available in the Fund, which States Parties can access through the International Assistance mechanisms. For this reason, the Secretariat has devoted much effort – in particular since 2016 – to intensifying the implementation of the International Assistance mechanisms of the Fund (see document [LHE/19/14.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-7-EN.docx)) and to enhancing the monitoring of projects funded by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund with the creation of a dedicated Safeguarding Implementation and Monitoring Team (see document [LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx)). While the particular circumstances due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic make it difficult to draw conclusions on future trends from the present biennium, it is clear that the need for voluntary supplementary contributions remains, whether to support States Parties that are not yet in a position to submit International Assistance requests, spearhead innovative projects in new areas such as the integration of intangible cultural heritage into education and/or carry out upstream work at the global level. Taking this perspective into account, the Secretariat will continue its efforts to raise funds for the two funding priorities as well as to enhance its human resources.

**Funding priority 1: Capacity-building programme**

1. The current biennium (40 C/5) is marked by an increase in voluntary supplementary contributions supporting the global capacity-building programme after a 2018–2019 period during which no such contribution was received. Since the fourteenth session of the Committee in 2019, four voluntary contributions were received, from Azerbaijan (US$100,000), France (US$271,445), Kuwait (US$65,000) and Switzerland (US$100,000). These contributions enabled the ongoing implementation of capacity-building projects at the national level in Africa and the Caribbean, as well as initiatives specifically targeting capacity-building for the safeguarding of living heritage in emergencies. These four contributions amount to a total of US$536,445 corresponding to 11 per cent of the mobilization target of US$5 million set for the 2018–2021 quadrennium (Decision [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6)).

**Funding priority 2: Intangible cultural heritage in education**

1. Under the funding priority ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, the Secretariat has continued both its upstream and operational efforts at the global and national levels (see the Report of the Secretariat in document [LHE/21/16.COM/5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-5.b-EN.docx) and Implementation report of the spending plan for the ‘other functions of the Committee’ in document [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.13.2](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.13.2-EN.docx) for further details on ongoing and completed activities) in collaboration with UNESCO’s Education Sector at Headquarters and with Field Offices.
2. Since the fourteenth session of the Committee in December 2019, two voluntary contributions amounting to US$291,111 were received from the Netherlands and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) – a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO – for the implementation of four operational projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the 2018-2021 quadrennium during which this funding priority was initiated (Decision [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6)), these two abovementioned voluntary contributions correspond to 15 per cent of the US$2 million mobilization target that was set for this purpose.

**Strengthening the human resources of the Secretariat**

1. The Sub-fund to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat was created by the General Assembly in June 2010 (Resolution [3.GA 9](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Resolutions/3.GA/9)) to support the Secretariat on a lasting basis and allow it to respond to the needs expressed by States Parties. The annual target of the Sub-fund initially set at approximately US$1.1 million in 2010 was reassessed by the eighth session of the General Assembly in 2020 to be at a similar level and set at US$950,000 per year (Resolution [8.GA 7](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/8.GA/7)).
2. Since the fourteenth session of the Committee in 2019, five voluntary contributions were received from Lithuania, Monaco, Palestine, Slovakia, and the Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari (Italy) for a combined amount of US$40,823. Taking into consideration the six voluntary contributions received in 2018 and 2019, a total amount of US$181,867 was received between January 2018 and June 2021, which corresponds to 4 per cent of the target endorsed by the General Assembly for the entire 2018 – 2021 quadrennium. In addition to voluntary contributions, two in-kind contributions – in the form of a staff secondment since May 2021 and a sponsored traineeship since March 2021 – were received from China.
3. In recent years, the Convention simultaneously experienced geographical (180 States Parties as of 30 June 2021) and thematic expansions, notably with initiatives on ‘safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, ‘intangible cultural heritage in emergencies’, the recent reform of the periodic reporting mechanism and the reflection launched by the Committee on the listing mechanisms of the Convention. These recent developments reflect the continued relevance of the Convention; they are positive for the present and future of its implementation. It should however be kept in mind that these initiatives require continuous support from the Secretariat. The governing bodies of the Convention may wish to take into consideration implications in terms of human resources to ensure that the Secretariat is equipped to provide adequate support to these new actions. Otherwise, some of these initiatives will need to be put on hold based on priorities identified by the governing bodies.

**Ongoing activities supported by voluntary supplementary contributions**

1. The implementation of the following activities, financed with voluntary supplementary contributions, started or continued during the reporting period (see also [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.13.1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.13.1-EN.docx)). However, several of the following contributions having been received in 2020 and 2021, the development and launch of the projects concerned were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects for which no report has been issued yet are expected to operationally start in late 2021 or early 2022.

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| **Project** | **Last report issued** |
| Support of the development and implementation of capacity building activities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in conflict-related situations, including situations of forced displacement | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/support-of-the-development-and-implementation-of-capacity-building-activities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-related-situations-including-situations-of-forced-displacement-00474) |
| Capacity-building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/capacity-building-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-contributing-to-sustainable-development-00475) |
| Reflection on the listing mechanisms of the 2003 Convention | See Document [LHE/21/16.COM/14](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-14-EN.docx) |
| Strengthening capacities at the national and local levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Dominica | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-at-the-national-and-local-levels-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-dominica-00477) |
| Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education in Latin America and the Caribbean | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/learning-with-intangible-cultural-heritage-for-a-sustainable-future-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-00473) |
| Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through strengthening national capacities in Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-strengthening-national-capacities-in-morocco-mauritania-and-tunisia-00281) |
| Improvement of the periodic reporting mechanisms under the 2003 Convention | See Documents  [LHE/19/14.COM/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-19-14.COM-8-EN.docx)  [LHE/21/16.COM/7.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-7.b-EN.docx) |
| Strengthening capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in disasters | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/strengthening-capacities-for-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-in-disaster-contexts-00458) |
| Living Heritage and The Sustainable Development Goals: Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through formal and non-formal education in the Asia and the Pacific Region and in Africa | [See project page](https://ich.unesco.org/en/projects/living-heritage-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-through-formal-and-non-formal-education-in-the-asia-and-the-pacific-region-and-in-africa-00476) |

**Other ongoing projects and activities supported by voluntary contributions**

1. Voluntary supplementary contributions channelled through the Fund support projects and activities in direct response to requests made by the Committee and in line with the priorities it identified. Complementary to these contributions, UNESCO also received other forms of more tightly earmarked support for projects aiming at safeguarding living heritage in line with the Expected Result 6 of Major Programme IV, and as such aligned with the Convention. While such contributions are of course welcome and of benefit to safeguarding purposes, nevertheless it should be noted that the tightly earmarked nature of these contributions does not always allow for sufficient flexibility to fully respond to the broad range of needs and requests expressed by communities and Member States.
2. In order to give a comprehensive overview of the support received by the Convention across different modalities and reflect the diversity of projects supported by donors, this section will outline the different projects that were considered as active[[1]](#footnote-1) during the 2018–2021 quadrennium.[[2]](#footnote-2) While meaningful budgetary information could not be provided due to the many different implementation periods associated with the projects and activities mentioned, the number and geographical scope of these initiatives testify to the extent of ongoing actions aiming to improve the implementation of the Convention by States Parties and communities and of the generous support provided by a wide range of donors to UNESCO’s work at the global, regional and national levels.
3. As a longstanding programme which heavily relies on UNESCO Field Offices for its implementation in complement to upstream activities at the global level, the capacity-building programme received much support through the following:
   1. The self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreements allowed the implementation of three projects thanks to contributions from Brazil (Brasilia Office) and Morocco (Rabat Office);
   2. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements established with Flanders, Belgium (Harare Office), Japan (Abuja, Beirut and Harare Offices), Switzerland (Islamabad Office), the United Arab Emirates (Cairo, Khartoum, Nairobi and Ramallah Offices), the Iris Foundation (Bangkok Office) and the private sector of the People’s Republic of China (Headquarters) supported the implementation of eleven capacity-building projects;
   3. Additional appropriations to UNESCO’s Regular Programme received from Australia (Lima Office), China (Beijing, Bangkok and Dhaka Offices), the United Arab Emirates (Doha Office), Uruguay (Montevideo Office), the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding - APCEIU (Bangkok Office), the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region - CRIHAP (Bangkok and Dhaka Offices), the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region - ICHCAP (Headquarters, Bangkok, Beijing and Dhaka Offices), AmorePacific Thailand (Bangkok Office), Better World (Bangkok Office), Comité Colbert (Montevideo Office) and Parzor Foundation (Delhi Office) – supported UNESCO Field Offices in the implementation of twenty activities under the global capacity-building programme.
4. While a relatively new priority for the Convention, initiatives promoting the integration of living heritage into education also received some support with contributions from the European Commission (Headquarters) and the private sector in the People’s Republic of China (Bangkok Office). Furthermore, additional appropriations to UNESCO’s Regular Programme were received by UNESCO from China (Almaty Office), Kazakhstan (Almaty Office), the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region – ICHCAP (Headquarters, Almaty Office) and a private individual (Tashkent Office).
5. In addition to projects that contribute to the two funding priorities, contributors also provide support to a wide range of projects that directly link the safeguarding of living heritage to other types of heritage (movable heritage) and/or to specific areas of sustainable development such as improving social protection, developing creative industries, managing tourism, building peace or enhancing human security at large:
6. Self-benefitting Funds-in-Trust agreements supported six projects thanks to contributions from Brazil (Brasilia Office), India (Delhi Office), Mexico (Mexico Office) and Morocco (Rabat Office);
7. Other Funds-in-Trust agreements established with France (Quito Office), Norway (Juba Office), the United Nations including the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund (Hanoi, Libreville and Rabat Offices) and the private sector in the People’s Republic of China (Bamako Office) supported the implementation of seven projects;
8. Additional appropriations to UNESCO’s Regular Programme received from China (Headquarters), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands (Headquarters), the United Arab Emirates (Headquarters), Uruguay (Montevideo Office), the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America - CRESPIAL, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region – ICHCAP (Beijing and Dhaka Offices), Centro de Desarollo y Autogestión (Lima Office) and Santillana (Lima Office) – supported UNESCO Field Offices in the implementation of twelve activities.
9. **Proposed funding priorities (2022 – 2025)**
10. The framework that guided donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Fund over the past four years and enabled the Committee to accept projects between its sessions expires at the end of 2021. A new framework therefore needs to be adopted by the Committee in this regard. In line with the draft programme and budget ([41 C/5](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375756)) of UNESCO which continues to be based on an Integrated Budget Framework that sets out the Organization’s overall funding requirements and therefore guides all support to UNESCO, including the 2003 Convention, the Secretariat proposes to maintain the following two main funding priorities for the period 2022-2025 as described in the updated concept notes (Annex II).
11. The proposed Priority 1 – ‘[Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development](#Priority1)’ – aims to continue efforts to extend the reach and effectiveness of the global capacity‑building programme, which was first put in place in 2009 and since then provided support to States and communities in more than 95 countries. During the 2022–2025 quadrennium, focus will be placed on expanding the geographical and thematic scope of the programme, in collaboration with a diverse range of partners (category 2 centres, university networks, non-governmental organizations). In response to the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, a strategic reorientation of the programme to a multi-modal delivery approach, involving hybrid, in-person, and fully online formats, will continue, thereby improving the quality, effectiveness, and accessibility of the programme.
12. The proposed Priority 2 – ‘[Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education](#Priority2)’ – aims to intensify efforts initiated in the 2018-2021 quadrennium to incorporate intangible cultural heritage into formal and non-formal education, in cooperation with the education sector. Voluntary supplementary contributions received in 2020 and 2021 demonstrated the interests from States Parties and key stakeholders from the education sector and allowed the provision of technical support to design and implement pilot projects to develop and test methods and tools. During the 2022-2025 quadrennium, focus will be placed on scaling up the programme with a more strategic focus on educational systems and institutions to ensure enduring impacts and effectively feed into the national discourse and advance the 2030 Agenda through education and culture.
13. The Committee may wish to encourage donors to support the achievement of the goals set out in the two funding priorities through voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund. The modality of voluntary supplementary contributions allows the Committee to better coordinate international cooperation, as described in Article 19 of the Convention, while permitting the Secretariat to match needs and resources responsively and to deliver services effectively; it also provides high visibility to the donor. In keeping with the Organization’s principle of results-based management, the Secretariat is responsible to the General Assembly – and through it, to the donors – for achieving concrete results.
14. The Committee may therefore wish to approve the two main funding priorities and accept any future voluntary supplementary contributions to the Fund that fall within their scope as an earmarked contribution. In consultation with the donor, the Secretariat would agree on the beneficiary country(ies) based on requests from Member States, UNESCO’s implementing capacity in the field and, of course, the donors’ priorities. In this regard, the Secretariat would also like to recall the UNESCO Global Priority Africa contained in UNESCO’s Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 ([41 C/4](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378083)), and for which financial support will be needed. Whenever a contribution of this kind is received between two Committee sessions, the Secretariat will ensure that the item appears on the agenda of the following session in order to inform its members on the progress made and give due visibility to donor countries.
15. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

**DRAFT DECISION 16.COM 12**

The Committee,

1. Having examined document LHE/21/16.COM/12,
2. Recalling Article 25.5 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Operational Directives,
3. Further recalling its previous decisions regarding voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, and in particular Decisions [12.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/12.COM/6) and [14.COM 6](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/6),
4. Thanks all the contributors that have generously supported the Convention and its Secretariat through voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for projects under implementation during the 2018-2021 quadrennium, namely Azerbaijan, France, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain (Generalitat de Catalunya), Switzerland, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) and the Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari, as well as the People’s Republic of China for its in-kind support;
5. Takes note that while the mobilization targets for both funding priorities have not been met in terms of voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, the Convention has received significant support through the Funds-in-Trust and other earmarked modalities, and expresses appreciation to all the contributors that have generously supported the Convention during the 2018-2021 quadrennium;
6. Approves the two funding priorities for the period 2022-2025 entitled ‘Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development’ and ‘Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education’, accepts any future voluntary supplementary contributions made to support activities within the scope of these priorities, and authorizes the Secretariat to make immediate use of them;
7. Encourages potential contributors to consider the possibility of supporting the Convention, in particular through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and the Sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat, to allow the Secretariat to respond positively to the needs expressed by States Parties in line with the two funding priorities;
8. Further encourages the Secretariat to pursue its efforts to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Convention, in particular for the two funding priorities approved for the period 2022–2025, and to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat;
9. Requests that the Secretariat report, at its seventeenth session, on the progress made in the implementation of any voluntary supplementary contributions it may have received since the sixteenth session.

**ANNEX I**

**Cash and in-kind contributions received in support of the 2003 Convention between**

**the fourteenth session of the Committee (December 2019) and June 2021[[3]](#footnote-3)**

**Voluntary supplementary contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

**Funding priority 1. Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contribute to sustainable development**

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| Azerbaijan | US$100,000.00 |
| France | US$271,445.00 |
| Kuwait | US$65,000.00 |
| Switzerland | US$100,000.00 |

**Funding priority 2. Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education**

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| Netherlands[[4]](#footnote-4) | US$111,000.00 |
| ICHCAP | US$180,000.00 |

**Sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat**

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| Lithuania | US$2,600.44 |
| Monaco | US$11,737.10 |
| Palestine | US$262.00 |
| Slovakia | US$23,196.59 |
| Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari | US$3,026.63 |

**Loans and Secondments**

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| China | 2 months at P-2 level |
|  | 4 months (sponsored trainee) |

**ANNEX II**

**Funding priority 1**

Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development

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| **Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):** | 25 countries in all regions, prioritizing Africa and Small Island Developing States |
| **Duration (in months):** | 2022-2025 (48 months) |
| **Name and Unit of Project Officer(s):** | Tim Curtis, Chief, Living Heritage Entity and Secretary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage  Susanne Schnüttgen, Head of Unit, Capacity Building and Heritage Policy, Living Heritage Entity |
| **Partner(s) institutions:** | Ministries in charge of intangible cultural heritage and/or other governmental and non-governmental institutions with responsibilities relevant to intangible cultural heritage |
| **Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:** | US$5 million |

Rationale and overall purpose

With a decade-long experience of delivering in-person training, the global capacity-building programme has become an integral part of the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level. *“(…) capacity-building is at the core of what UNESCO is and should be doing,”* underlines the evaluation of the Internal Oversight Service, 2021 (see document [LHE/21/16.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10-EN.docx)). The emergence of the COVID-19 crisis and the related restrictions made particularly clear that the capacity-building programme needs to adapt, calling for creative and innovative ways for programme delivery in an online environment. The programme has successfully piloted new online and hybrid delivery formats. Building on the lessons learnt, the programme is now undergoing a reorientation to include a multi-modal delivery approach, thus providing opportunities for expanding programme outreach to new audiences and harnessing innovative pedagogy, while ensuring cost-effectiveness ([LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.)](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-7_Rev.-EN.docx).

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***Progress and achievements***

The Programme has continued to address the core actions for safeguarding living heritage while also making progress in addressing new training needs. A specific capacity-building approach was developed for the roll-out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism and implemented in the first regional cycle of reporting (Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe). Within the thematic scope, the programme has further developed and piloted training approaches in various areas.

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| **Core actions** | **Thematic areas to date** |
| * implementing the Convention * community-based inventorying * safeguarding plans * nominations and international assistance * overall results framework & related periodic reporting | * education * sustainable development * gender * emergencies * urban contexts |

Over the past four years the number of countries benefitting from the Programme has reached over 120 countries and trained over 2400 individuals from government, civil society and communities. The information gathered in project reports and evaluations suggests that capacity building in these areas, together with the advisory services provided for policy analysis and revision, are effectively contributing to the establishment of the professional and institutional environment required to support communities and groups in their efforts to transmit and recreate their ICH.

***Challenges and ways forward***

While the 2021 IOS evaluation further confirmed the centrality of the global capacity-building Programme for the implementation of the Convention, the context and conditions for implementing the Programme are evolving. Increasing and continued demand for capacity-building services is expressed individually by Member States[[5]](#footnote-5) and by different stakeholder groups, such as non-governmental organizations, universities, and culture centres. Although the demand exceeds the Programme’s delivery capacity, it has experienced a decline in funding. Therefore, efforts to develop and sustain collaboration and build new partnerships with diverse actors including category 2 centres, development agencies, heritage institutions, universities, and UNESCO university chairs, are underway.

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| **Potential new programme areas** |
| * commercialization of ICH * climate change * sustainable tourism * nominations under reformed listing mechanism * international assistance * others |

The ongoing strategic reorientation of the Programme will capitalize on the opportunities and advantages of online and in-person training (blended, hybrid and online modalities), to address the evolving demand. At the same time, the Programme will strengthen the facilitators network to broaden its geographic scope and thematic expertise utilizing the new technology and social media platforms. The roll out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism will provide new opportunities to develop national networks of trainers (or equivalent mechanisms) to strengthen and sustain capacity building in countries. Training on the Convention’s Overall results framework and its related periodic reporting will continue to enjoy high priority.

At the thematic level, the Programme will continue to roll out capacity building related to emergencies, ICH in urban contexts, education, gender, and sustainable development, while taking on new areas. It will also address capacity-building needs resulting from the new developments under the Convention.

The expected impact of this Programme is a vibrant collaboration between governmental and non-governmental institutions, universities, and communities in an increasing number of countries to guarantee that the latter can sustainably recreate, maintain, and transmit their living heritage to the next generation, while respecting the principles of the Convention. Furthermore, the Programme intends to strengthen the recognition of ICH in sustainable development and contribute to the 2030 Agenda[[6]](#footnote-6) and other internationally agreed regional or global development agendas, such as the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, amongst others.

Summary of outcomes and outputs

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| **Outcome N°1:** Countries integrate the safeguarding of ICH into their plans, policies, and programmes, utilizing the 2003 Convention’s Overall Results Framework and applying an inclusive and gender-responsive approach.[[7]](#footnote-7) | | |
| **Output N°1.1:** Technical assistance provided for policy and programme development, including the integration of ICH safeguarding in national development programmes. | |
| **Output N°1.2:** Capacity reinforced for ICH-related policy and legal development. |
| **Outcome N°2:** Countries draw upon competent bodies, institutions, and networks at the national level to support the continued practice and transmission of ICH. | | |
| **Output N°2.1:** Capacities of competent bodies and institutions for safeguarding ICH strengthened. |
| **Output N°2.2:** National network of trainers (or equivalent mechanism), and university networks initiated or strengthened to respond to capacity-building needs at national and decentralized levels. |
| **Outcome N°3:** Countries establish or revise a framework and methodology for inventorying which is inclusive, respects the diversity of ICH and its practitioners, and supports safeguarding by the communities, groups and individuals concerned. | | |
| **Output N°3.1:** Knowledge and practical skills for community-based inventorying reinforced, applying an inclusive and gender-responsive approach. |
| **Outcome N°4:** Countries utilize strengthened human resources for safeguarding ICH, in different thematic areas, thereby contributing to sustainable development. | | |
| **Output N°4.1:** Capacities and skills of communities, groups and individuals to develop safeguarding plans for ICH reinforced. |
| **Output N°4.1:** Capacities of actors from culture and other sectors strengthened for safeguarding ICHin thematic areas such as emergences, education and urban context, responding to country needs. |
| **Outcome N°5:** Countries participate actively in the Convention’s mechanisms for international cooperation, including the International Assistance mechanism where relevant. | | |
| **Output N°5.1:** Capacities for participation in the international mechanisms of the Convention, including the preparation of International Assistance requests and/or nominations under the reformed listing mechanism reinforced. |
| **Outcome N°6:** Countries utilize the Overall Results Framework for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in their monitoring, and reporting activities. | | |
| **Output N°6.1:** Capacities for results-based reporting of countries, communities, groups, individuals and other ICH related institutions developed. |
| **Output N°6.2:** Knowledge of intersectoralsynergies and collaboration for safeguarding ICH strengthened. |

Implementation strategy

The capacity-building process is steered by UNESCO’s network of field offices, in cooperation with national counterparts and with on-going technical support from the Living Heritage Entity. The multi-modal programme delivery approach will allow UNESCO to offer different delivery option to States Parties (hybrid, in-person, online), taking into account the context, pedagogic considerations, feasibility, and cost effectiveness. States are provided with a diverse complement of interventions designed – according to each State’s needs.

Technical assistance will be provided using content and materials developed by UNESCO as part of its capacity-building curriculum. UNESCO has developed training materials and guidance tools on several topics, ranging from the core actions of the Convention to different thematic areas. The in-person materials are available online and are being converted for the multi-modal programme delivery approach. Translation of materials into local languages will be built into a country project to support the localization of the curriculum where needed. The training and advisory services are delivered through the Programme’s dynamic and expanding network of 140 facilitators (November 2021), trained to deliver capacity-building services in the field of ICH upon demand while creating synergies with national expertise and networks.

The Programme foresees establishing links with national development strategies, and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Common Country Assessment (CCA) processes, as part of the policy work, which aims to create an environment supportive to safeguarding ICH and harness its potential for sustainable development. Attention will be paid to the equal involvement of all genders as part of an inclusive approach.

Stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners

Beneficiaries are the different actors involved in the decision-making, administration and practical aspects related to safeguarding ICH from the culture and other sectors. For the policy component of the Programme, the primary beneficiaries are officials from ministries of culture and other ministries willing to integrate the safeguarding of ICH in their work. The training and advisory process may also include relevant institutes, NGOs, universities and community representatives. For the activities related to community-based inventorying and safeguarding, the primary beneficiaries are field workers and the groups and communities concerned, including youth.

The Convention recognizes the central role of communities in safeguarding their ICH. Therefore, all activities carried out under this Programme will be in line with the Convention’s Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and will obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the communities concerned.[[8]](#footnote-8) The Programme will take an inclusive approach to ensure the widest possible participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of safeguarding activities.

Risk analysis, sustainability and exit strategy

The Programme is designed to maximize its sustainability and multiplier effect. Using a needs-based approach, it aims to create in each beneficiary country a critical level of national capacity, both in government institutions and among key players from communities, civil society, universities, heritage institutions, forming a sustainable foundation for safeguarding ICH. The capacity-building Programme includes the establishment of national networks of trainers (or equivalent mechanisms) and strengthening partnerships with relevant organizations or institutions, which can replicate capacity building by relying on internal expertise, built and strengthened through the Programme.

The Programme seeks to strengthen institutional-level relations in countries through the identification of suitable institutional partners. By involving stakeholders from both the culture sector and other development fields, the Programme facilitates the integration of provisions for safeguarding ICH into larger development strategies and programmes, thereby further sustaining the viability of ICH and harnessing it for the well-being of communities and societies.

**Funding priority 2**

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in formal and non-formal education

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):** | Global Programme with country projects in all regions, in particular Africa |
| **Duration (in months):** | 2022–2025 (48 months) |
| **Name, Unit and contact details of Project Officer(s):** | Tim Curtis, Chief, Living Heritage Entity and Secretary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage  *For each project under this global programme appropriate Education Sector colleagues will be involved from the design to the evaluation stage* |
| **Partner(s) institutions:** | Ministries of Culture and of Education, relevant culture and education institutions, category 2 centres, UNESCO education institutes and bureau |
| **Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:** | US$3.5 million |

Rationale and overall purpose

Incorporating living heritage in formal and non-formal education can take multiple forms as established by the range of projects implemented since the initiation of this programme in later 2017. According to the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2021 ‘projects have made some inroads into demonstrating the value of integrating living heritage into educational contexts’ (see documents [LHE/21/16.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-10-EN.docx) and [LHE/21/16.COM/INF.10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-21-16.COM-INF.10-EN.docx)). The evaluation highlights that the partnerships developed between communities, ICH culture bearers, and schools is perhaps one of the 'most rewarding features' of the projects carried out thus far. However, to take the programme a step further, it now has to “scale up” to ensure that projects do not remain isolated, but that the lessons learnt will inform educational policies and get firmly anchored in education systems. A solid inter-ministerial approach between the Culture and Education Sectors is required to effectively strengthen the ‘transmission through formal and non-formal education’ as a safeguarding measure and enhance respect of and recognition for this living cultural heritage (Articles 2 and 14 of the Convention) while thereby contributing to relevant and quality education. The Overall Results Framework for the Convention includes three education-related indicators and one related to education policies. These are guiding the intervention logic of this programme.

Living heritage is a foundation for learning. It can provide context-specific content, meanings, pedagogies, and language for education programmes. By grounding the learning process in one’s own culture and creating possibilities of expanding and transforming existing experiences, intangible cultural heritage acts as a leverage to increase the relevance of education and improve learning outcomes, while promoting mutual respect and appreciation for diversity. Furthermore, intangible cultural heritage supports linking education systems to the local community and vice versa, recognizing the role of the communities in the teaching and learning processes. In this regard, intangible cultural heritage provides a needed and incredibly rich resource for attaining SDG 4, notably Target 4.7 which emphasizes learning to ‘appreciate cultural diversity’ and to ‘understand the role of culture for development’ together with education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

***Progress and achievements***

The first phase of the Programme implementation (2018 to 2021) focused on providing technical support to Member States to design and implement a wide range of projects to develop and test methods and tools to integrate living heritage in education programmes. Technical support was provided to raise awareness for the important role that education can play for safeguarding living heritage, and to promote intersectoral collaboration at the national level. Moreover, UNESCO developed a [Clearinghouse](https://ich.unesco.org/en/clearinghouse-education) for knowledge-sharing and a dedicated instructor-paced online training of trainers’ course which generated a learning network of resource persons on living heritage and education that is well equipped to provide training and advisory services upon request in this new area of work.

An important programme outcome of this work is that the role of living heritage and its importance for achieving SDG 4 for quality education is now better understood and illustrated. Furthermore, according to the IOS evaluation, projects undertaken in this area have led to, at least six outcomes, in particular an increased awareness of and respect for ICH amongst youth and the wider community. The importance of ICH as a vehicle for fostering identity, pride, and appreciation for cultural diversity was also observed. Participating teachers developed capacities and confidence to integrate ICH in their teaching practice and in some countries more opportunities to pursue the study of ICH in post-secondary level were created. In addition, the IOS evaluation acknowledged the progress made in consolidating and sharing knowledge in this intersectoral area and establishing initial collaboration among governments and stakeholders such as communities, NGOs and cultural heritage institutions, among others, to support this work.

***Challenges and expected impact***

However, the IOS evaluation emphasized that while some progress has been achieved through projects, it tends to be isolated and local. Scaling up with a more strategic focus on education systems is needed to promote a pedagogical shift and effectively feed results into the national discourse and advance the 2030 Agenda through education and culture. In many places, education systems are not giving due consideration to the important role they can play in the living heritage safeguarding process nor are they harnessing its potential to improve education quality and relevance.

Based on the assessment and insights gained from substantive work carried out in related fields, such as intercultural education, indigenous education, education for sustainable development, and others, UNESCO will centre its efforts on further expanding and scaling up the intersectoral Programme for greater impact and sustainability.

The longer-term impact of the Programme is to ensure that living heritage is valued and safeguarded as an integral part of quality and transformative education in a greater number of national education systems and through collaboration with bearers, thereby contributing to the well-being, creativity and dignity of learners and their communities, as well as to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 4. The outcomes and outputs below concern all levels of education from early childhood to post-secondary and provide the road map to eventually achieve the expected impact.

The intervention logic reflected in the table below drew from the Theory of Change proposed for this Programme in the IOS evaluation. It is aligned with the Overall results framework for the Convention.

Summary of impact, outcomes and outputs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Impact:** Living heritage is appreciated and safeguarded as an integral part of quality and transformative education in an increased number of national education systems and through collaboration with the bearers, thereby contributing to the well-being, creativity and dignity of learners and their communities and to the attainment of the SDGs, notably SDG 4. | |
| **Outcome N°1:** Countries support work for a pedagogical shift to bring learners’ living heritage into formal and non-formal education which involves transformative methodology and the identification of living heritage, connecting them to attain learning objectives aligned with specific targets of SDG 4. | |
| **Output N°1.1:** Methods and assessment tools for integrating intangible cultural heritage in formal, non-formal and post-secondary education, including technical and vocational training, developed, strengthened, and implemented. |
| **Outcome N°2:** Countries utilize strengthened human and institutional capacities to include approaches to integrating living heritage and its safeguarding into education in teacher-training programmes and programmes for training providers of non-formal education. | |
| **Output N°2.1:** Technical support provided through capacity building for teachers, educators, teacher educators and culture and education professionals. |
| **Outcome N°3:** Countries scale up action at the interface of safeguarding living heritage and transformative education through inter-ministerial collaboration, policy development and curriculum revision, thereby anchoring the approach in education systems. | |
| **Output N°3.1:** Inter-ministerial cooperation initiated, and policy advice provided to create an enabling institutional environment and mechanisms for safeguarding living heritage in formal and non-formal education. |
| **Outcome N°4:** Countries participate in knowledge-sharing and networking platforms and advocate for the incorporation of living heritage in education in relevant regional and international policy processes. | |
| **Output N°4.1:** Access to expertise at the junction of living heritage and education provided together with knowledge-sharing and networking platforms. |
| **Output N°4.2:** Education policy recommendations on integrating intangible cultural heritage to improve educational quality and relevance are disseminated among relevant regional and international policy processes. |

Implementation Strategy

The Programme implementation strategy requires a combined approach addressing inter-ministerial collaboration at all levels as well as bottom-up initiatives. It was designed with a view to scale up action at the country level, combining methodological development and capacity building with stronger inter-ministerial collaboration, advocacy, and policy development.

The Programme does not intend to achieve in four years all the desired changes in all project countries; rather it offers a strategic approach for this work of safeguarding living heritage in formal and non-formal education that can be adapted in scope and scale to each country context. Countries will make choices about the focus of the action in terms of the type of education, namely formal and non-formal and the level of education which ranges from early childhood to post-secondary education, including technical and vocational training (TVET). They may also choose to focus on teacher training or on curriculum reform and policy development. While the four outcomes follow a sequential logic, they are strongly interrelated. Hence implementation can happen either as a sequence over time or in parallel.

In order to foster institutional anchoring and sustainability of processes, two cross-cutting approaches will be considered at all levels of implementation: 1) intersectoral collaboration and coordination through working groups and inter-ministerial cooperation and 2) context-specific strategies to involve community bearers from the implementation of pilot activities and capacity building to the elaboration of policy recommendations and the establishment of intersectoral and interinstitutional mechanisms. Attention will also be paid to fair and equal engagement of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages, persons with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups in all activities. A gender-responsive approach will be applied both to ensure inclusive participation and as a pedagogical approach to reflect on the influence of the gender in this work drawing from the understanding and needs of each context.

UNESCO field offices will take the lead in cooperation with national counterparts, UNESCO Education Institutes, and category 2 centres and with on-going technical support from the Living Heritage Entity and relevant education entities at Headquarters.

Stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners

Beneficiaries and stakeholders include learners and community bearers together with different actors involved in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (relevant institutions, culture ministries) and in education (schools, non-formal education programmes, education ministries, teacher-training institutions, and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network). For activities directly happening in schools and other learning spaces, the primary beneficiaries are the learners and the wider communities concerned. For complementary activities, such as teacher development, policy analysis and the consolidation and sharing of information, beneficiaries will be teacher-training programmes, planners and policy makers. The Secretariat will identify beneficiary countries, taking into account the needs and implementation capacities of Member States and of UNESCO’s delivery capacity in each Member State; the regional or bilateral priorities of donors can also be taken into account.

The Convention recognizes the critical role of communities in safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage. Therefore, all activities carried out under this project will involve them and obtain their free, prior, and informed consent, while also seizing opportunities of involving a wider range of relevant stakeholders.gy

Risk analysis, sustainability and exit strategy

In the short term, the programme will engage States Parties to strengthen their capacities to support safeguarding in formal and non-formal education. Countries should have at their disposal access to expertise, guidance and concrete experiences that will allow the relevant stakeholders and communities on their territory to carry on this work and develop larger scale projects. Where relevant, guidance will include information on the possibilities of requesting International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for this purpose.

For the programme to be successful, the intersectoral collaboration between the Living Heritage Entity and the Education Sector will be strengthened also in the framework of the joint intersectoral initiative entitled ’Education and Culture together in action to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.’ Above all, in order to guarantee a dialogic bottom-up and top-down approach, it will be crucial to ensure that all actors, including youth, community leaders and educators, have access to the means of consultation and implementation.

1. . This includes projects that are placed under the 39 C/5 (2018-2019) and/or 40 C/5’s (2020-2021) Expected Result 6 ‘Intangible cultural heritage identified and safeguarded by Member States and communities, in particular through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention’ in SISTER. Projects that were initiated, implemented or terminated during the period are considered active for the purpose of this section. Contributions from donors may have been partly or entirely received prior to or during the reporting period. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . The UNESCO Field Office – or Headquarters in the case of global activities – responsible for the implementation of each project is indicated in parentheses after the donor. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . Information provided by the Living Heritage Entity in complement to the Financial Report issued by the Grants Management Section, Bureau of Strategic Planning. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . The contribution was transferred to UNESCO in December 2019 and therefore is included in the Financial Report issued by the Grants Management Section, Bureau of Strategic Planning, as of 31 December 2019, as presented to the eighth session of the General Assembly (see Annex II(a) in Document [LHE/20/8.GA/INF.7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-8.GA-INF.7-EN.docx)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 5. See for example the decision of the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee (Decision [14.COM 5.b](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/14.COM/5.b)). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. . See Chapter VI of the Operational Directives in the [Basic Texts of the Convention, 2020 Edition](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/2003_Convention_Basic_Texts-_2020_version-EN.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. . References to ‘inclusive’, ‘inclusively’ or ‘on an inclusive basis’ should be understood to mean ‘inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups’ (cf. Operational Directives 174 and 194). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. . See the [Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/ethics-and-ich-00866). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)