|  |
| --- |
| ITEM 8.D OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA |
| **Examination of requests for International Assistance** |
| Fifteenth session, Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage  (Online – 14 to 19 December 2020) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  The present document includes the recommendations of the Evaluation Body on requests for International Assistance (Part A) and a set of draft decisions for the Committee’s consideration (Part B). An overview of the 2020 files and the working methods of the Evaluation Body is included in document [LHE/20/15.COM/8](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/LHE-20-15.COM-8-EN.docx).  **Decisions required**: paragraph 2 |

1. **Recommendations**
2. The Evaluation Body recommends that the Committee refer the following requests to the requesting States:

| **Draft Decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File No.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [15.COM 8.d.1](#Decision_9d1) | Central African Republic | Capacity building for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in the Central African Republic | US$420,730 | [01615](https://ich.unesco.org/en/8d-international-assistance-requests-01148#8.d.1) |
| [15.COM 8.d.2](#Decision_9d2) | Malawi | Safeguarding of ludodiversity of Malawi through non-formal education and community transmission | US$347,164 | [01498](https://ich.unesco.org/en/8d-international-assistance-requests-01148#8.d.2) |

1. **Draft decisions**
2. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

## **DRAFT DECISION 15.COM 8.d.1**

The Committee,

* 1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
  2. Having examined Document LHE/20/15.COM/8.d as well as International Assistance request no. 01615 submitted by the Central African Republic,
  3. Takes note that the Central African Republic has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Capacity building for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in the Central African Republic**:

This thirty-six-month project is aimed at building capacities for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in the Central African Republic. Due to a lack of qualified human, financial and infrastructural resources, there is a marked need to collect, process, protect and enhance the rich intangible cultural heritage present in the country. To address this situation, this project is intended firstly to strengthen the capacities of twenty officials of the Ministry of Arts and Culture at the School of African Heritage (EPA) in Benin, to ensure they are equipped to identify and safeguard intangible cultural heritage in partnership with local communities. Secondly, a degree programme in living heritage is to be developed at the National School of Arts, which will be evaluated by the University of Bangui. This will enable the country to acquire experts in the safeguarding of living heritage and to have officials concerned with intangible cultural heritage at the national and regional levels. Thereafter, a scientific meeting will be held to monitor the process and content of the programme. The approach envisaged is expected not only to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of all communities in the country but also to help inventory and safeguard the living heritage of minorities.

* 1. Further takes note that this assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
  2. Also takes note that the Central African Republic has requested assistance in the amount of US$420,730 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
  3. Considers that, from the information included in the file, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request emphasizes the importance of the communities in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage. However, the request does not give sufficient information on how the communities concerned participated in the preparation of the request and will be involved in the implementation of the proposed activities, and in their evaluation and follow-up. The whole programme seems to have been drafted from the point of view of representatives of state institutions, and the rationale behind it is based on the need to strengthen the capacities of these representatives or the capacities of these institutions in the area of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. There is no description of how the communities will benefit from the results of the project.

**Criterion A.2**: As the amount of financial assistance requested is rather high, more detailed information would have been expected in the text, including concrete examples and details of the content of the capacity-building measures targeted at the three groups of beneficiaries.The capacity-building programme is quite ambitious. However, due to the lack of information related to several areas of the programme (for example, the length of the management training, details about the extensive management and administration team, the estimated rental cost for the rooms/venues, and the publication costs), it is not possible to evaluate the appropriateness of the request. Furthermore, the budget structure is not fully aligned with the information provided in the file.

**Criterion A.3**: The programme consists of three main groups of activities (further divided into seventeen activities), targeted at three different groups of participants: officials from the Ministry of Culture; future students of the National School of Arts; and community members from the four regions concerned. However, none of these groups is adequately defined. The State Party has provided a detailed description of the objectives of the project, as well as of the major components and specific activities of the national and local capacity-building programme for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. However, there is a lack of information concerning two activities: the training of officials from the Ministry of Culture and the creation of a professional degree programme for students. The State Party has provided insufficient information on the content of the training programme. Furthermore, the amount of time allocated to this training seems excessive. Additionally, the State Party has not provided enough information on the resources to be used to finance the students taking part in the first round of this degree programme. The request also lacks sufficient details on the content of the training for community members. As the programme is quite ambitious, a step-by-step procedure may be considered more suitable for targeting the different groups of stakeholders concerned through a multi-phased approach based on smaller-scale projects.

**Criterion A.4**: The request specifies the number of people that will be trained through the capacity-building programme in all three groups of beneficiaries. The increase in human resources specialized in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is certainly important and will be an asset for the Central African Republic. However, the file does not demonstrate the sustainability of the project. The text explains neither how it will ensure the continuity of these training processes and other activities once the period of UNESCO funding has ended, nor how new intangible cultural heritage professionals will be integrated into institutions or the labor market. No specific responsibilities or tasks have been appointed, and no concrete follow-up measures are mentioned.

**Criterion A.5**: The State Party plans to contribute six per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Criterion A.6**: The main objective behind this request for assistance is to build capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in the country. At the end of the three-year project, the State should benefit from twenty trained employees, fifty graduate students and forty bearers (ten per locality) with knowledge of the Convention and the safeguarding of living heritage. The project focuses on professional training in the management of intangible cultural heritage for administrative officials. Unfortunately, the training programme for local communities is a weak point of the proposed programme and is not sufficiently explained. Moreover, there is some doubt as to the effectiveness of certain training courses, since the request does not provide enough information on their content.

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

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The programme is local, national and international in scope, as demonstrated by the fact that some of the capacity building for administrative executives is planned to take place in Benin. The participation of experts from the Regional Institute for Higher Education and Research in Cultural Development (IRES-RDC, Togo) and the International Centre for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA, Cameroon) is also foreseen. The terms of this cooperation are not always properly formulated, such as the relocation of the training of twenty administrative executives to Benin due to a lack of adequate space within the State Party. Furthermore, though the State Party intends to establish a higher education programme at the sub-regional level, the request suggests that this will take place in the future, without providing sufficient details as to how and when.

**Paragraph 10(b):** The request states that, thanks to the knowledge and field experience acquired through the degree programme, graduates will develop the capacity to think outside the box and come up with novel ideas through research that will attract more local sponsors and thereby widen the opportunities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. However, no concrete information is provided on the potential multiplier effects of this assistance to stimulate contributions from other sources, such as from the private sector and other organizations.

* 1. Decides to refer to the requesting State Party the International Assistance request for the project entitled **Capacity building for the safeguarding and management of intangible cultural heritage in the Central African Republic** and invites it to submit a revised request to the Committee for examination during a following cycle.

## **DRAFT DECISION 15.COM 8.d.2**

The Committee,

* 1. Recalling Article 23 of the Convention as well as Chapter I.4 of the Operational Directives relating to the eligibility and criteria of International Assistance requests,
  2. Having examined Document LHE/20/15.COM/8.d as well as International Assistance request no. 01498 submitted by Malawi,
  3. Takes note that Malawi has requested International Assistance for the project entitled **Safeguarding of ludodiversity of Malawi through non-formal education and community transmission**:

To be implemented by the Malawi National Commission for UNESCO, the overall objective of this project is to contribute to the safeguarding of ludodiversity in Malawi through non-formal learning and community transmission. In 2013, an inventory of ludodiversity in the country was developed by practitioners with the assistance of living heritage experts; thirty-two traditional games were inventoried and a safeguarding plan developed. This thirty-six-month project aims to safeguard ludodiversity through the non-formal learning of nine of these traditional games, as well as through their informal transmission by and within the practising communities. Specifically, the project aims to: organize consultations between communities practising the same types of games with sports development experts as observers, to achieve consensus on the general rules and regulations of the games; publish a handbook containing these rules and regulations and distribute 2,000 copies to teacher training colleges, community libraries and schools; train local primary school teachers and youth through apprenticeships with community practitioners; and organize the first regional annual festival of traditional games by practising communities. Based on active community participation, the project is expected to strengthen capacities to document, manage and publicize living heritage, as well as to enhance the capacities of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee to coordinate the participation of practising communities, groups and individuals.

* 1. Further takes note that this assistance is to support a project implemented at the national level, in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the **provision of a grant**, pursuant to Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
  2. Also takes note that Malawi has requested assistance in the amount of US$347,164 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of this project;
  3. Considers that, from the information included in the file, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The project activities revolve around the communities concerned. The request includes a detailed description of how the traditional leaders, community youth, teachers, audiovisual technicians, researchers and practitioners of traditional games will actively participate in all stages of the project. Information is also provided on the involvement of the community-based organizations Nsikwa Foundation for the popularisation of Nsikwa game and Mbalika Association for the popularisation of the Mbalika game. These organizations used their networks to reach areas where some traditional games were still being practised.

**Criterion A.2**: The State Party has specified most of the expenses for the activities mentioned in the request. However, there are some concerns about the budget breakdown being too focused on organizing the festival of games. Furthermore, the file does not sufficiently demonstrate how the costs to be incurred by the comminities in implementing the project would be covered. Moreover, there are several inconsistencies between the timetable and the description of activities.

**Criterion A.3**: The purpose of the project is to safeguard nine traditional games through study, documentation, apprenticeship, the formation of groups and awareness-raising. The activities proposed to achieve the objectives of the project seem to be well conceived and feasible. This might be thanks to the fact that the project is the result of ongoing activities in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, supported by UNESCO and with the involvement of various stakeholders.

**Criterion A.4**: The request states that the communities will be able to access the documentation produced during the project through the traditional leaders, community libraries and schools. The field experience acquired by the youth could be used to conduct further documentation of intangible cultural heritage when needed. However, there is no convincing argument that some results of the project would be sustainable after the funding has come to an end, for instance the organization of the festival.

**Criterion A.5:** The State Party plans to contribute four per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Criterion A.6**: During the implementation of the project, the capacities of the communities (traditional leaders, practitioners, teachers and community youth) will be improved in several ways, including their capacity to document, transmit and raise awareness about their intangible cultural heritage, and manage projects directed at its safeguarding. The capacities of researchers, audiovisual technicians, the media and government officials to document, manage and publicize living heritage, among other tasks, will also be enhanced. Finally, the capacities of the stakeholders concerned – including non governmental organizations – to coordinate safeguarding efforts through a participatory approach will also be increased.

**Criterion A.7**: Malawi has benefitted from International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund three times, for the projects entitled ‘Safeguarding of Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa proverbs and folktales’ (file no. 01060, 2015-2017, US$90,533), ‘Development of an inventory of intangible heritage of Malawi’ (file no. 00609, 2012-2013, US$24,947) and the ongoing project ‘Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Malawi through non-formal learning and transmission’ (file no. 01530, 2019-2021, US$91,860). The work stipulated by the contracts related to these projects has so far been carried out in compliance with UNESCO’s regulations.

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The scope of the project is national, with the UNESCO National Commission for Malawi being essential to its financial and administrative aspects. Different roles are described for different actors/partners. However, the request does not elaborate on all of these in sufficient detail given the budget requested. Minimal mention is made of the Education Department, though schools will play a crucial role in the success of the initiative. Associations are mentioned, but there is insufficient information related to their organization, governance and sustainability.

**Paragraph 10(b)**: The request states that the universities and communities concerned will be encouraged to use the results of the project to raise more funds to continue practising the traditional games as well as to implement other safeguarding measures for other games and elements. The request also expresses the hope that the publications produced during the project will further stimulate the Ministry of Education to focus on and invest in educational documentation inspired by local cultural traditions and, in particular, traditional games. Nevertheless, such traditions need to be further integrated into educational curricula. Some potential multiplier effects are mentioned in various parts of the text. However, there are no reasonable arguments in the file to indicate that this will take place and be sustained after the project and its funding have come to an end.

* 1. Decides to refer to the requesting State Party the International Assistance request for the project entitled **Safeguarding of ludodiversity of Malawi through non-formal education and community transmission** and invites it to submit a revised request to the Committee for examination during a following cycle.