

Why it matters

CAPACITY BUILDING is one of the five functions that UNESCO performs to fulfil its mandate. As such, one of the top priorities for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is its global capacity-building programme.

The Programme was put in place in 2009 to support countries to safeguard their intangible cultural heritage and harness its potential for sustainable development, while promoting broad public knowledge and support for the Convention.

Communities are at the heart of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

The 2003 Convention places communities at the center of all its safeguarding activities. The capacity-building programme takes an inclusive approach to ensure the widest possible participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially relevant community groups, in the design and implementation of safeguarding activities.



Intangible cultural heritage provides communities with keys to address some of the most urgent challenges of today and help ensure sustainable societies for the future.

PHOTO: © Ministry of Culture, 2010 / Miguel A. Hernandez (Peru)

Intangible Cultural Heritage – or ‘living heritage’ – is important because it offers communities and individuals a sense of identity and continuity. It can promote social cohesion, respect for cultural diversity and human creativity, as well as help communities and individuals connect with each other.

As the United Nations specialised agency for culture, UNESCO is tasked with safeguarding living heritage and ensuring its transmission to future generations.

In 2003, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which encourages and supports countries to take the necessary measures to ensure that communities safeguard their living heritage. As of 2019, 178 States have ratified the Convention.

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Intangible Cultural Heritage



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Living Heritage and Capacity Building

THE CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

What we do

- **DEVELOP** community-based inventorying and safeguarding methods
- **SUPPORT** the ability of States to effectively implement the Convention
- **INTEGRATE** the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage into sustainable development plans, policies and programmes at all levels
- **STRENGTHEN** institutional frameworks to help safeguard intangible cultural heritage
- **ENHANCE** monitoring for the implementation of the Convention



Global network of facilitators for capacity building

In 2011, UNESCO established the network of facilitators to support capacity-building initiatives for the implementation of the Convention. Our facilitators are internationally recognised as resource persons for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage under the Convention. They deliver on-demand advisory and capacity-building services around the world. The facilitators help make the link between the Convention and local actors to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the ground.

Learn more about our facilitators online at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/facilitator>



PHOTO: © UNESCO / Aikawa-Ogge (Mongolia)

How we do it

The Programme offers capacity-building services at country level, combining training, advisory services, stakeholder consultation and pilot activities. These can be adapted to specific country needs and thematic topics, always with the view to ensuring the continued impact and sustainability of safeguarding measures at national level.

CORE ACTIONS FOR SAFEGUARDING

- Community-based inventorying
- Safeguarding plans
- Implementing the Convention
- Nominations and international assistance requests
- Periodic reporting

THEMATIC AREAS

- Education
- Sustainable development
- Gender
- Emergencies

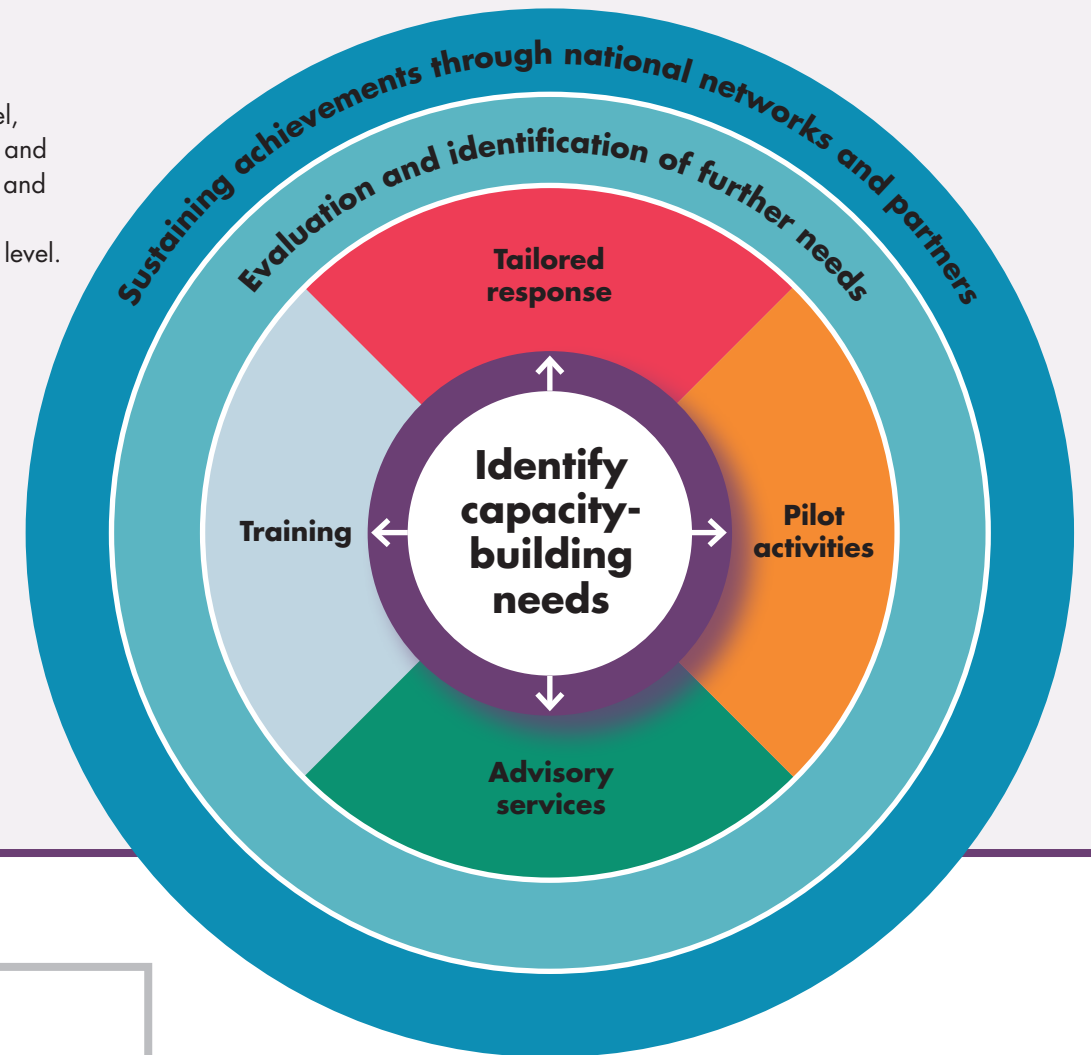


Tools

Tools are available online to support learning and training on safeguarding living heritage:

- **UNESCO guidance note** for policy development, with information sheets on thematic areas, for example, health and education.
- **Over 50 thematic training units** on topics, such as developing safeguarding plans, preparing international assistance requests, gender, etc.
- **Sustainable development toolbox** with case studies demonstrating the links between intangible cultural heritage and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Access our materials by registering on our website:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/access-to-capacity-building-materials-00830>



Key achievements

+100
BENEFITTING COUNTRIES

+50
THEMATIC TRAINING UNITS

+150
GLOBAL FACILITATORS TRAINED

+300
CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED