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Find
Sega
Previous Next

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

National Inventory Intangible Cultural Heritage

MAURITIUS

MINISTRY OF ARTS AND CULTURE
NATIONAL HERITAGE FUND
2013



FR 12:18
18/10/2013

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File Edition Go to Favorites Help

Find
Sega
Previous Next

TRADITIONAL MAURITIAN SEGA- SEGA TIPIK MORISIEN

1.0	IDENTIFICATION OF THE ELEMENT	
1.1	Name of the element, as used by community or group concerned;	Traditional Mauritian Sega- <i>Sega Tipik Morisien</i>
1.2	Short, maximally informative title (including indication of domain(s));	Performing Arts- Songs in Mauritian Kreol
1.3	Community(ies) concerned;	Entire Mauritian population
1.4	Physical location(s) of element;	Mauritius
1.5	<p>Short description</p> <p>The <i>Sega Tipik</i>, also called <i>Sega Ravann</i>, <i>Sega Tanbour</i> or <i>Sega Tradisionel</i>, constitutes songs, accompanied by dances and music performed in particular contexts. Sega is a legacy of the slave population born in the context of a colonial society. Originally mentioned by travellers of the 19th century as <i>Tschiega</i> or <i>Chega</i>, which are described as the Mozambican Sega and the Malagasy Sega respectively. These forms met in the Mauritian context to create the Mauritian traditional Sega.</p> <p>A way to externalize the physical pain and moral repressions, it had a cathartic function on the audience. The harsh living conditions under slavery and the repression of original cultures of slaves led to the emergence of a new culture, product of the encounter of various cultures and the process of creolisation. During their non-working time, slaves gathered to sing their misery and dance, to forget their inhuman living conditions. Sega was probably performed during funerary rites and to communicate with ancestors through trance.</p> <p>There are various forms of traditional Sega according to the performance context, such as the <i>Sega bor lamer</i> (beach Sega), <i>Sega</i> (performed for the arrival or departure of a ship), <i>Sega lavierz</i> (performed for Assumption), <i>Sega banane</i> (performed for New Year), etc.</p>	

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