



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2021  
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

File may be downloaded at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

### A. Identification of the organization

#### A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SOCIETY (ICS)

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SOCIETY (ICS)

A.1.c. Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)

90178

#### A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SOCIETY (ICS)

Address: 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR JAKHALU BUILDING CITY TOWER JUNCTION  
DIMAPUR-797112, NAGALAND, INDIA

Telephone number: +91 9774006893

Email address: indigenoussc@yahoo.co.in

Website: www.indigenouscs.in

Other relevant information:

### A.3. Contact person for correspondence

*Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.*

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Dr.

Family name: Chishi

Given name: Hesheto Y Chishi

Institution/position: Director

Address: H/no-3, Churches Colony, Opp Mission Hr. Sec School Dimapur-797112, Nagaland, India

Telephone number: +91 7005324758/ +91 9774006893

Email address: [hchishi@yahoo.com](mailto:hchishi@yahoo.com)

Other relevant information:

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

**B.1.** *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As a registered NGO body of the state government, Indigenous cultural Society is actively evolved with the competent authority in the capacity of advisory body. So also network with the Ministry of Culture Government of India in policy making body of ICH. We identify endangering elements of the region and area and facilitate fund from the government and safeguard them. We also act as a consultant NGO to the Art & Culture department of both State and regional Zonal Department. Assist them in awareness and promotional programme, Screening project and supervise for better service delivery etc.

**B.2.** Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous Cultural Society has a good track record of networking with similar concern institutions and NGOs. So far our NGO has documented many folklores both in literary and dramatized form, folksongs, folkdance, traditional cultivation, traditional dietary etc. We are actively involving in revitalizing the endangering cultural elements and values. We have documented many cultural elements and published in video, audio and books etc.

So far we also have been acting as an implementing agency as well as involve in conservation, preservation and Promotional of tribal Oral literature, folklore, myths, legend, wisdom sayings etc. Indigenous Culture: Customs & traditions, agricultural life & activities, festivity and festivals, rituals & rites, habits & diets, Indigenous industries and economy and conservation of heritage sites.

Indigenous Music & Folk Arts school run under the Banner of Indigenous Cultural Society is fully function as a coordination body of Nagaland State Government Music Task Force and Art Department in research, promotion and livelihood programme and projects.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous Cultural Society as an advisory body act as Governing body members and Executive body member to the state Government and Regional North Eastern States of India, in assisting state Art and Culture department and North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India. We help the competent authority in cultural revitalization programme, project evaluation, analyses, action plan and implementation of short term, medium term and long term plan to serve ICH objectives.

Indigenous Cultural Society also identifies the endangering Cultural practices and values and prevailing cultural issues such as endangering dialect and language, traditional cuisine, oral customary, child adoption, marriage and divorce. And present it to the concern Government Department, civil societies and similar NGO i.e. Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTECH). To coordinate cooperate and build team work to serve common agenda effectively and efficiently.

**B.4** Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Not to exceed 250 words

As a concern cultural body through networking and collaborative activities we preserve and promote endangering elements which are still yet to research, document and promote more, and some which are gaining more popularity such as sanskritana of Manipuri dance, yoga and kumbh mela at local, regional, national and UNESCO level.

Indigenous Cultural Society being rooted in its wholistic revitalization as a community life has proposed many project on priority basis in the past and was successfully completed. At present Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) have also proposed a community based project of culture safeguarding practise such as Traditional Healer, for community health care, protection of environment and sustainability development, and "*apükhü kiti*" an Indigenous game a dying art to the Government of India.

**B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

### **Revitalizing dying Arts:**

Indigenous Cultural Society is known for its community participation and effective team work system. It has identified cultural village and community for its research, documentation, promotional work and for good safeguarding practices. We have selected Lazami village, one of the highest populous and oldest village of Sümi Naga tribes of Nagaland state of India, as cultural village. Lazami village symbolises archives and museum of tribal culture of Nagaland state. Their traditional life setting; language, diet, traditional agricultural cultivation, traditional attires, folklores, folksongs, folk dance, archetic, customs, economy, art, literature, beliefs, concept, attitude, manner folk music, dress, and sports etc are revitalized, documented promoted and protected through mass participation.

The Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) always stands on the motto; '**Deeply human**'. To sensitize the importance of prevailing social issues that confronts our tribal people and society, ICS also to address the prevailing community issues organized seminars on team building, Woman's Rights, Indigenous People's Rights, Customary laws in collaboration with Civil Societies i.e. Woman Union/Associations, Tribal Councils, network with Students Union, Traditional healers and Church etc.

Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) in collaboration with different Forum, Association, Union, NGOs and Civil Societies on regular basis organise different traditional, contextuel and festivity programmes for women, Youth, Childern, differently able, Senior Citizen, Orphan, dropouts and farmers. To impart the sense of commmunity responsibility of reviving traditional dying art and promote and practise cultural life and values.

**B.6.** Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. *promoting the function of ICH in society;*
- b. *fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
- c. *facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous Cultural Society is actively involved with all the UNESCO ICH prescribed elements through community participation.

#### **a) Promoting the function of ICH in society;**

- i. *Oral traditions and expressions*
- ii. *Performing arts*
- iii. *Social practices, rituals and festive events*
- iv. *Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe*
- v. *Traditional craftsmanship*
- vi. *Other Domains:*
  - i) Cultural exchange program
  - ii) Empowerment and livelihood program

**B)** Scientific research, Documentation and Publication for training educational and promotion programme to incorporate with academic studies and training resource material so as to theoretically and practically equipped community for lasting result.

**C)** Through scientific research we facilitate tribal community to access possible information technically in cultural perspective. We do help tribal community to codify oral Customary laws, community living and traditional knowledge.

All the safeguarding measures programme are community based centric activities. Thus, we collectively and collaboratively work hand in hand with Centre for Culture Resources and Training (CCRT) & North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) State Art and Cultural Department, Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural (INTECH) Civil Societies and different Association, Unions and platforms. Accordingly share knowledge of their traditional creative educational skills with others to bring a uniform outline to impart education and training knowledge in their respective field and component. Thus, serves the ICH objective on regular activities bases.

**B.7.** Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

**a)** The society organized culture educational training programme for youth and students' at different towns and villages of Nagaland. The beneficiaries are motivated to come forward and take advantages of such programs.

The society in order to inhabit cultivate and honour our traditinoal cultural values regularly conducted training programme of traditional knowledge and information and awareness on endangering, dying art and popular practices to conserve strengthen and promote it.

**b)** With a view to impart the traditional knowledge and practices, and culture values amongst the youth and to revitalize those tradition, organises seminar symposium workshop and training of different folk arts: folkdance, folksong, folkmusic, Oral literature Indigenous Games, Traditional Community Health care, craftsmanship and sustainability development etc on regular basis.

**c)** To strengthen dignity of labour and hard work. A half yearly training programme on skill development for a period of 15 days, one month and two month is offered to women, youth, children, unemployed, dropout and differentlyable person. In addition, Iliki model hostel (*tribal girls hostel*) is established to serve as one of the traditional functional activities centre.

**d)** Empowerment of traditional healer to revive traditional Community Healthcare and Health awareness programme and ensure cost effective service to the community and enhance lively hood for the healer a traditional herbal treatment programme is conducted. At present more than 8700 patients of different health ailments are treated with traditional herbal products.

e) The Society also identifies Historical places of village community and conserves them.

### C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);
- b. participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);
- c. developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) valuing team work has strong ties of networking and partnering relations with ICCN, and Ministry of Culture Government of India and autonomous agencies ie.: Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) New Delhi; for children artist, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) Mysore; for promotion of tribal language, Sangeet Natak Akademy; for folksong, folkmusic, folkdance. National School of Drama; for theatre and dramatising folklores. Sahitya Akademy (letters); for documentation and publication of oral literature. Quality Council of India (QCI) and AYUSH Deptt to revitalize traditional folk medicine and community health care service and university. Wada Na Tado Abhiyan (a leading National NGO); for socio cultural related activities and programmes. CSOs, NGOs and faith based organizations; for sharing relevant information, research work and cultural activities programme related socio cultural concerns of diverse and inter cultural communities.

### D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) soon after its accreditation is cooperative with UNESCO programme and activities. So far, we have attended and participated UNESCO meeting at 8 COM Baku Azerbaijan 2013, 9 COM Paris France 2014, 11COM Addis Ababa Ethiopia 2016 and 12 COM Jeju in South Korea 2017. Participated as a member and actively attended in all the NGO forum meetings and discussion. Involved in NGO forum working group committee in Research, ethics and sustainable development group. So also participated in survey report that is communicated to us through online. During Covid pandemic participate and voted in the NGO forum steering committee election. Attended NGO forum and working group seminar and through webinar.

**D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

No

**D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

*Not to exceed 500 words*

We anticipate the responsibility and challenges of the assignment in the near future. Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) as a Cultural NGO has been actively involving in the assignment of revitalization, research and promotional activities programme. Our NGO act as an advisory and consultant body not only to the Government agencies but also to tribal Association, Students Union, Mother's Association, Church and other NGOs and Self Help Group in the above mentioned domains and cultural components:

- i. Oral traditions and expressions*
- ii. Performing arts*
- iii. Social practices, rituals and festive events*
- iv. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe*
- v. Traditional craftsmanship*
- vi. Other Domains*

In revitalization programme we streamline endangering and dying arts and practices i.e. oral literature & language etc. In research we focus on documentation publication and patient. In promotional programme we on priority bases promote dying arts i.e.; Traditional healer profession, folkmedicine, folkmusic, language, craftsmanship etc. The most endangering cultural community is a Tribal irrespective of its geographical location for its inter-cultural influences. Their language and community living is severally affected by urbanization. Thus, we could foresee the need for revitalization mechanism of lost and endangering traditional and cultural values. That would safeguard and strengthen community culture for long term.

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):**

**E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Yes, we have good track record of research work, publication, supervisory work, monitoring activities and project managements. English is our working language. We have competent staff i.e.: Five (5) staff. One in Cultural Studies, two in folklore studies, one in theatre and one in folkdance and folk music. Who would handle the assignment if required and assigned.

**E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Yes, challenging experience. Our fourfold methodology of documentation, research, coding and promotion did tremendous work to serve our purpose. All six domains of ICH gave us equal strength and outcome. It enabled us to revitalize many lost elements of ICH ie.; oral literature, language, customary, folksongs, folkmusics, folkdance steps, indigenous games, Agriculture, Festivals, Rituals, Mithun sacrifice, Indigenous Knowledge, Environment awareness, Lycanthropy, Traditional craftsmanship; Crafts, Household items, Dress Mekhala (wrap around) and shawls. Other domains, Cultural exchange program, treaty, Empowerment and livelihood program, and Socio cultural Campaign.

Nagaland is a land of colourful traditional art and culture. Yet after the advent of modernisation and westernisation it has been observed that people especially youth and children of present days are not much aware of the importance of traditional art & culture. Keeping this in view our NGO has established training centre to initiate revitalisation programme that would foster communal harmony and integration. Through this program several artists of different age category and gender are trained and groomed. They are made active to perform folk art, folk music, folk dance etc and other contemporary activities. Through this regular program the youth and children are also encouraged to learn their traditional arts and perform it in all the functions and festivals. So far 1486 artist in the field of folkdance, folksong, and folk music, oral literature have been trained. Research on Naga folkdance has been conducted successfully, on regular basis.

Our Indigenous Cultural Society(ICS) through sustainability development programme provides self empowerment opportunity.

**E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) as an advisory body to State Art and Culture Department and North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture Government of India, evaluates and analyses many project write-up and reports at every interval time. We do prepare different types of short-term medium-term and long-term project and assist implementing agencies for affective and lasting result. So far we have assisted project on ie, folkdance, folksongs, events, sustainability development, Research, Publication, Documentary, Training programme, workshop, festivity, Seminar etc, of many agencies: projects application of State Art and Culture department, women, Student Union etc.

**E.4.** *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

So far our NGO has done internal assignments of our own. We have Completed empirical research on Sumi Naga folkdance and published ten years course syllabus for Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) Minister of Culture. Completed and published Genealogical research book of Chishi Clan. ICS conducted habitant Documentary at Mishilimi Village on 1-2 September 2019. Revitalizing of Sumi traditional Morung at Lazami Sumi ancestral village. So far published 10 research book and more than 200 research articles. For documentation of oral tradition and promotion of cultural research work the NGO is also involved in publication work.



Along with the documentation work the NGO is also engaged in literary promotional work. Thus, publish translation work as well, currently revising Sümi Naga folksongs book and video CD and English version of Naga Folklores. A part from cultural research with a view to strengthen tribal language and promote it, vernacular literature is given a top most priority.

**E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As UNESCO Accreditation NGO & ICCN associate members, we aim and work on inclusive Culture. As such our NGO in different capacity have good experience of networking relationship and exposure. One such international context application is to encourage the Person with Differentlyable (PwDs). To incorporate inclusive culture in assence and practice we train and promote inclusive folk art to PwDs and participated at different international, National, State, Regional, and local events. So far Indigenous Cultural Society (ICS) PwD artists have represented Nagaland state by participating at two different Devya kala Shakti National events, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, on Presidents invitation at New Delhi on 04-18 April 2019 And another at Parliament House with Prime Minister of India New Delhi on 23-24 July 2019. The Programme was Organised and sponsored by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

We do have lots of research findings of the protetial of indigenous game and sports that would gain international repute. Our Naga indigenous game that can be contextualise with the existing international game and sports are a unique '**Apükhü kiti** ' (**kick fight**) that resembles tikondo, indigenous wrestling that resembles judo and unique spare kick that would strengthen and promote tribal folkart at the international level.

## **F. Cooperation with UNESCO**

*Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Indigenous Cultural Society association with UNESCO has been immensely benefited our NGO in particular and community that we represents as a whole. We are so grateful to the esteemed authority of UNESCO for extending keen concern even to the most neglected tribal community of the world. Recognising our NGO's objectives and activities by UNESCO itself is an achievement for our tribal NGO.

All our activities are enshrined with the UNESCO ICH elements. We are directly involved with UNESCO as an accredited body. We owe a great debt to UNESCO for realising the need of networking, association and upliftment of cultural community of the world. We acknowledge the support of UNESCO especially towards a community such as ours, in developing countries, who are politically deprived, economically marginalized and socially discriminated.

UNESCO has paved the way for us to see the world cultural community, educate us to see and learn endangering elements and the need to safeguard them, without which act of kindness it would have been a mere distant dream for many of us.

Through the assistance provided by UNESCO, our NGO could participate at four ICH programme. Our NGO serves the community under UNESCO umbrella. All the 5 cultural

domains of UNESCO are seriously carried on as regular activities. Both tangible and intangible culture domains are valued and implemented at local, state, regional, national and international level. We do identify dying arts and as priority basis service and promote them all.

## G. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

## H. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: HESHETO Y CHISHI

Title: Dr.

Date: 15/12/2020

Signature:

