



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

• Intangible
• Cultural
• Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-05-Report – Form

REQUEST FOR PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE FOR ELABORATING A NOMINATION FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE URGENT SAFEGUARDING LIST

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State Party: NAMIBIA

Name of element to be nominated for inscription:	AIXAN /GÂNA /ŌB ≠ANS TSÎ //KHASIGU - ANCESTRAL MUSICAL SOUND, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (NAMA TRADITIONAL MUSIC)
Geographic location and range of the element:	The element is practiced by the Nama people of Namibia living in, but not limited to the following regions: Hardap, //Kharas and Erongo. Hardap region is located to the south-central of Namibia with a population of 79,000. //Karas on the southern Namibia with a population of 76,000, and Erongo to the southwest with a population of 150,400. The element is mostly practiced in the //Karas and Hardap regions, where the majority of the Nama people live.
Time frame:	Starting date: January 2018 Completion date: October 2019
Budget:	Total: US\$ 10 663.71 <i>Including:</i> Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$ 9 009.50 State Party contributions: US\$ 1 654.21 Other contributions: US\$ 00
Implementing agency:	Namibia National Commission for UNESCO
Contact person:	Title (Ms/Mr. etc.): Mr. Family name: April Given name: Rod

	Institution/position: Namibia National Commission for UNESCO Address: Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation Telephone number: +264 61 435 6013 E-mail address: roderick.april@mheti.gov.na
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Process of elaborating the nomination

Provide a description of the process that was used to elaborate the nomination. Explain the mechanisms employed for fully involving the communities, groups, or if applicable, individuals concerned in the preparation of the nomination. Not fewer than 200 or more than 500 words

As part of the exercise, culture officers in the regions raised awareness about the element and mobilized concerned communities in their respective regions. Information gathering exercises were carried out by a trained community members and two culture officials in the concerned regions of Hardap, Kharas, Otjozondjupa and Erongo. Traditional authorities were informed of the objectives. Consultations with traditional authorities, communities, groups and individuals were scheduled for information sharing, inventorying and documentation. As part of the identification process, traditional authorities made references to specific individual musicians and groups for interview discussions and organized performances.

As communities have already been aware and verbally or generally consented with the nomination of the element, individuals eagerly signed the consent form. It was ideal that communities should write their consent in their own handwriting, however, it was not easy due to the language barrier and at times individuals did not have much idea on what to present as consent. To this end, formal consent letter was designed and fully explained to the communities by officials and community trainers-of-trainer during meetings. Other members who are able to read and better understand the consent also assisted in explaining the content of the consent. During this exercise, consent forms were signed by the Traditional Authorities Chiefs on behalf of their communities, but off-course with the approval of the concerned communities, Senior Traditional Councilors, community groups and individuals concerned.

Representatives of the traditional authorities, music groups and individual musicians were interviewed during the process and they willingly shared their idea about the element. A balanced gender representation was ensured during the awareness and mobilization process. A total number of 274, of which 168 were women and 106 men were consulted during the first and second round of consultation meetings and documentation.

Preparatory measures supported financially by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund

What are the specific activities in the process of elaborating the nomination that were financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund? Please indicate the nature and sequence of such activities (e.g. a film or photos necessary for the submission of a nomination, the organization of consultations with communities, expert services for the preparation of a nomination, translation services, etc.).

Provide information concerning only the specific measures that were funded by this preparatory assistance request.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

1. Community consultation meetings and data collection

In March 2018, the research team comprised of two officials from the Directorate of National Heritage and Culture Program and an ICH trained community member from Hoachanas visited ten community groups and Traditional Authorities in Hardap, Erongo, Kharas and Otjozondjupa regions. The visit was meant to further research on the element in addition to the previous data gathering exercise carried out in 2016-17, for the completion of the nomination of the element to be inscribed on the UNESCO's ICH list of urgent safeguarding. The gathering of information was carried out in collaboration with the regional culture officers who assisted the team in coordinating and mobilizing communities, Traditional Authorities and individuals concerned.

The research team visited towns such as Gibeon, Berseba, Hoachanas, Amperbo and Maltahohe in Hardap region; Karasburg in Kharas region, Grootfontein, Otavi and Otjiwarongo in Otjozondjupa region and the Topnaar community in Utuseb along the Kuiseb river in Walvis Bay. The team interviewed some of the senior traditional counselors as well as community members and individual musicians. Strong emphasis was placed on traditional chiefs and traditional councilors as entry point to the communities and to request for consent for element inscription. Community provided their full support for the Aixan /gâna /ōb #ans tsî //khasigu, element to be documented.

2. Elaboration of the nomination file: -ICH Technical Committee members workshops

Pursuant to the preparation of the Aixan /gâna /ōb #ans tsî //khasigu nomination file, the ICH Technical Committee members held several workshops to elaborate the element. Firstly, a two days' workshop was held at Gross Barmen on 16-17 May 2018. The objectives of the workshop were to present a field report on the consultations with Traditional Authorities and the

community concerned with the element, evaluate the data, and to prepare the nomination file as well as international assistance request for the safeguarding of the element.

During this meeting, the Committee kick-started with filling in of the nomination form, and deliberated on further strategies. Other workshops and meeting aimed at reviewing the nomination file followed on the 24 July 2018, to view the video which was produced and filling gaps. Another meeting was held on 29-30 January 2019, followed by another one on 19 February 2019.

3. Document the element (text, photographs and audio visuals)

A consultant was contracted to produce a video that display the historical and contemporary narrative of the element. A five minute video was produced, however, it was not to the satisfaction of the Technical Committee. For that reason, another video was produced by members of the committee at no cost. Photographs were also collected and better ones were selected for the purpose of the nomination file.

4. Community consultations: pre-submission of the nomination file

As part of continual community engagement, it was necessary that after the completion of the nomination file, the concerned community be consulted and provided with the content of the nomination form. The form was to be discussed together with community for them to ensure that the information contained in the nomination form reflect the aspiration of the concerned communities before the form is sent for evaluation by UNESCO's Evaluation Committee.

A culture officer for Hardap region, Ms. Brumilda Gertze took the responsibility of consulting the concerned communities. The visit was carried out during the period from 22-27 March 2019, at Amperbo, Hoachanas, Gibeon and Martahohe village towns with representatives from other areas. Ms. Gertze presented the nomination form and discussed its content, the video and the photographs that ought to be sent. A total number of 130 people participated in this exercise.

5. Exit workshop

After the submission of the nomination form, the ICH Technical Committee had an engagement with community representatives as well as education officials. Although the last community consultation was held already in March 2019, as indicated above, it was imperative that the exit workshop be held to inform the community of the status of the element and that the project

came to an end and motivate them to continue safeguarding the element. The workshop took place from 10 to 11 October 2019, at Mariental, in Hardap region. On the 09th October 2019, a day before the workshop, the Director of National Heritage and Cultural Programme, together with the Culture official of Hardap Region, paid a courtesy call to the Governor's office in order to brief her on the status of the element and the entire nomination file. During this workshop, the nomination file was presented to the community representatives. Participants were informed that the element will be discussed by the Evaluation Committee and the outcome will be communicated to all concerned parties through the existing structure. Participants were however encouraged to continue safeguarding the element for future generation.

Lessons learnt

What are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- *Attainment of expected results. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative from the nomination process if applicable.*
- *Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement*
- *Delivery of project outputs. Also describe any other indirect outputs (e.g. capacity built, additional funding secured).*
- *Project management and implementation*

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

Although the process was lengthy and at times community did not have much information on the safeguarding of the heritages, the exercise yielded a notable positive result.

In the first instance, data was collected from regions that are anticipated to have a number of Nama people living there. It is also noted that a good number of people participated during community consultations and information gathering. The exercise is believed to have a broader representation of the concerned community with a fair gender representation in all towns. A balanced gender representation was ensured during the awareness and mobilization process. A total number of 274, of which 168 were women and 106 men were consulted during the first and second round of consultation meetings and documentation. Another positive outcome is that members of the communities were positive about the element to be nominated for inscription on the UNESCO list of urgent safeguarding. Traditional Authorities, community representatives and individual custodians, were positively collaborating and consent

forms were signed. During the exit workshop, Magrietha Goeieman an elderly custodian of the music, reaffirmed her continual transmission of her traditional music performing skills to the youth.

At many occasions, people expressed their gratitude toward the state commitment in the preservation of this heritage, and this reminded some of them of their good old days.

New video footage and photographs on the traditional music performance were captured and a nomination video was produced. Some new music groups/bands were identified through the consultation process. These groups also provided information through individual or group interviews and group performances. This made it possible for the nomination form as well as International Assistance request for the safeguarding of the element to be completed and submitted to UNESCO.

Though there are commendable achievements during the project implementation, there has also been some drawbacks. As the element is said to be at a very fragile stage where most of the elderly that have the knowledge of the Aixan /gâna /ōb #ans tsí //khasigu are fast aging, it was sad to learn that three of our main informants since the first process of inventorying: Magdalena Lambert (2017), Margrietha Rooinassie and Chief Seth Kooitjie (2018) have already passed on. Their departure left a big gaps as those were perceived to be the knowledge banks of the element departed before the element could be inscribed.

It was also observed that some of the elders who have been performing the music in their youth days, were not able to perform the music due to old age and illness associated with aging. The fast aging of the skilled elders was one of the point that prompted the urgent safeguarding of this element. Another observation during the process of data gathering also revealed that the youth lack the skills of performing the music, while some lost interest. Lack of musical instrument appeared to have contributed a great deal to lack of skills and eventually lack of interest. Lack of traditional instruments that might hinder the youth interest was also admitted by Magrietha Goeieman, who expressed her concern over the disappearance of plants that were used to carve the instruments.

At some points, there has also been a concern over the property rights of the music as it is nominated for inscription for urgent safeguarding. Some individual felt that individual right to their music might be replaced by the State. They wanted to have clarity on the matter. However, the misunderstanding was cleared with the clear explanation that the property rights will remain with the community or individual musicians that performs their music genre and the State has no right over individual music or genre.

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Erastus Kautondokwa

Title: Senior Culture Officer

Date: 22.10.2019

Signature: 

