



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

### PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Project title:  | Development of an Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for Shiselweni Region in Eswatini   |
| Reporting period:   | From: 18/12/2019 to: 29/01/2020   |
| Budget:   | <p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$66,639</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$64,824</p> <p>State Party contribution: US\$1,815</p> <p>Other contributions: US\$0</p>  |
| Implementing agency<br>(contracting partner or<br>UNESCO Field Office): | Eswatini National Trust Commission  |
| Contact person:   | <p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms</p> <p>Family name: <b>Mavuso</b></p> <p>Given name: Gcebile Desire</p> <p>Institution/position: <b>Education Officer, Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC).</b></p> <p>Address: P.O.Box 100</p> <p>Telephone number: +268 24161489,(Cell)+268 76127829</p> <p>E-mail address: temahlubin@gmail.com</p> |
| Partner agency<br>(in the case of a service<br>from UNESCO project):    | Eswatini National Trust Commission  |
| Implementing partners:  | ENTC  |

## Background

*Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focussed on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.*

*Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words*

The Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland) is a country which is known for its rich and diverse cultural heritage. Safeguarding ICH is very important for every country and its people because it strengthens national identity. If this culture was well documented and publicized, the country could have been able to attract more tourists, have more people employed and earn a decent living. In return, this would restore important attributes of human nature such as self-confidence and pride in being Swati, which is crucial for participation in developmental programmes.

With the increased influence of foreign cultures due to globalization, coupled with general lack of interest in cultural issues by most youths, some cultures are slowly being forgotten. There is, therefore, a need to deliberately put efforts in order to safeguard Eswatini's cultural heritage. This project is aimed at raising awareness about the 2003 Convention and building the capacity of local communities to effectively participate in the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. Clear guidance is required at national level with regard to identifying and documenting intangible cultural heritage given the diverse forms through which ICH manifests itself. As part of safeguarding Eswatini's cultural heritage, this project intends to do an inventory of ICH elements in Shiselweni Region. In 2015 a request was sent to Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC) by the village heads from Shiselweni Region led by their Principal Chief to document their ICH. This followed a similar exercise that was conducted in Mhlumeni and Sitsatsaweni in Lubombo Region during the third phase of the Flanders sponsored project; Strengthening National Capacities in Seven Countries in Southern Africa for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014. ENTC established the first inventory of ICH in 2010 following the exercise conducted in Hhohho Region by the Ntfontjeni Community. Other inventories were conducted in 2012 and 2014.

Malindza, Manzini Region also with support from the Flanders Government through UNESCO. Therefore, this project will allow for the inventorying of ICH elements in other areas such as Shiselweni Region which was not covered during the previous projects.

The Shiselweni region is one of the regions in the country facing serious challenges in as far as the safeguarding of Swati ICH is concerned. Therefore this project will contribute to the efforts by Government by mobilizing communities and raising awareness on the importance of ICH and how this ICH can be safeguarded for future generations. Such efforts will help revitalise some ICH elements that are under threat of disappearing as well as maintain and enhance those that are currently viable. As regards to the delivery of the project, Eswatini has two national experts, namely: Ms Rosemary Andrade-Dlamini and Ms. Temahlubi Dudu Nkambule who both work for ENTC and were trained in community-based inventorying of ICH by UNESCO. However Ms. Temahlubi Dudu Nkambule is studying abroad, she then handed over to Ms Gcebile Mavuso who was also trained and has the capacity to carry-out the project effectively and coordinate the project at national level. Ms Mavuso is also a member of the National ICH Committee and has been assisting Ms Nkambule in ICH activities. For the effective implementation, the project will also engage the services of a regional ICH expert Dr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi, who will oversee the delivery of the training component of the project.

Apart from the three local experts and the regional trainer, the project will also engage two youths who were trained in 2014 during the workshop on Training of Trainers which was conducted in Magadzavane, Lubombo Region within the framework of the project on "Strengthening Sub-Regional Cooperation and National Capacities in Seven Southern African Countries for the Implementing the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of ICH". In total 18 community members have been earmarked for training in community-based inventorying of ICH under this project. Since Shiselweni Region is divided into 14 zones known as tinkhundla, each tinkhundla will contribute one member to undergo the training and the rest of the other members will come from the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee. In addition, there were 6 members from the National ICH Committee and 1 official from NATCOM who participated in the exercise, giving a total of 25 participants.

The choice of the community to implement this project was made by the local Chiefs themselves. Article 15 of the 2003 Convention states that each State Party shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management. In this project, apart from requesting for the project, local leaders (Chiefs) were involved in the selection of participants to undergo inventory exercise while communities, custodians and practitioners were involved. The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage divides the ICH elements into five main domains, namely: oral traditions and expressions; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning the nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. The inventorying and assessment of ICH elements in Shiselweni Region intends to reflect on all these five domains.

### Objectives and results attained

*Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focussing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.*

*Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words*

The overall objectives were met: Firstly, awareness was raised among various stakeholders about the 2003 Convention and the importance of ICH in the Shiselweni region. The meeting attracted diverse stakeholders which included custodians, practitioners, Bearers, media houses, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, local authorities, politicians, youth, elderly not only from the region but also from other parts country. This training ensured sustainability of the project as the community the regional cultural officers will continue with the inventory exercise beyond the period. The NICHC through the regional administrator's office managed to sensitise other chiefs besides those who were selected for inventorying. Communities in Shiselweni Region were sensitized about the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the ICH, measures and mechanisms for safeguarding, ICH and the role of ICH in the society. The media especially the Eswatini Television Authority attended during opening and during the fieldwork exercise covered and aired the ICH a workshop activities during prime time (on their news broadcast between 7pm and 8pm) and a repeat on Saturday morning between 6am and 9am. Two (2) Members of Parliament attended during the closing ceremony of the workshop from the identified chiefdoms showed an interest and promised their support on implementing the Convention.

A banner was printed with UNESCO and Intangible Cultural Heritage Logos. Participants and politicians present during the opening ceremony were given T-Shirts and bags which were printed with sponsors logos. A small write up on ICH was distributed to the Minister, politicians and local authorities to make them fully aware of the Convention and ensure their support and appreciation of the role of ICH in the country.

During the workshop 3 ICH elements were documented in the nearby communities with the

assistance of the Regional Mentor and the NICHC. In the process of documenting these elements awareness was further raised to the communities since community meetings were held in the Chief's kraal (Umphakatsi) to sensitise the people on ICH before the actual exercise. The equipment purchased for the project assisted a lot in covering the whole workshop and documenting ICH elements during fieldwork.

Another main objective of the workshop was to build capacity amongst the people of the Shiselweni Region in safeguarding ICH. A total of 18 participants from the communities around Shiselweni were capacitated. Gender was observed in the selection of participants; 9 males and 9 females were trained. From the 18 participants 12 of them were youth who are active in their chiefdoms and has the capacity to disseminate information about ICH which will ensure sustainability of awareness raising about the 2003 Convention.

### **Description of project implementation**

*Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.). Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.*

*Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words*

#### **1. Preparatory Meeting of the Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC) and NICHC**

The NICHC through the Eswatini National Trust Commission as an implementing organisation conducted a one day meeting to discuss the project's plan of action. The main output from this meeting was a clearly laid down plan of action of the project activities, with identify members from the committee who will take part in the workshop as well as given tasks to each member to carryout. Workshop dates, stakeholder identification and community visit dates were set and a plan of action drawn.

#### **2. Meeting of stakeholders**

- **Meeting with Regional Administrator January 2020**

Eswatini protocol dictates that if there is an activity that is going to take place in any region, the regional administrator should be informed prior about it. The National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee had a meeting with the Regional Administrator (RA) and his Officials where the project was explained. The RA warmly welcomed project and the desired outcome which was permission for the NICHC to carryout the project in the region was granted. The NICHC held two meetings with the RA.

- During the meetings with the RA, the 2003 Convention and the project was explained which led to the awareness on the Convention and appreciation by politicians.
- The RA helped in the identification of chiefdoms to participate in the project. He also called the chiefs into a meeting to address them and request them to be cooperative during the project and ensure safety of the team. These chiefdoms were Qomintaba, Magele, Zombodze Emuva and Mashobeni South.
- The RA requested police officers in the region to ensure safety of participants and the whole team during the inventory and workshop.

- **Meeting with Chiefs (Local Authorities) December - January 2020**

Another meeting was held with the local authorities in the Shiselweni region to brief them about the project and the 2003 Convention. The main output for the meeting was granting of consent by Local authorities and practitioners to carry out the project in their communities.

Elements to be documented during the workshop were identified. Community members to participate in the workshop were identified and names were given to the NICHC by the Local authorities. Chiefdoms that were identified with the help of the Regional Administrator (RA) were four, that is, Qomintaba, Magele, Zombodze emuva and Mashobeni South all from the Shiselweni region. The NICHC visited all the chiefdoms in January 2020. The NICHC Visited the Qomintaba and Zombodze Emuva Chiefdoms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2020. Magele and Mashobeni South Chiefdoms were visited on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Results from the meetings with the local authorities were that;

- During the meeting the Chiefs and their Inner Councils were taught about the 2003 Convention making them aware of what it.
- They granted consent to carry out inventory in their communities as well helped picked the right candidates to participate in the training.
- The local authorities also assisted in identifying practitioners from their communities requesting permission from them to assist the team in the inventory.
- The Chiefs ensured safety and security on the team during the workshop and fieldwork in the region by asking community police to stay on guard.

### **3. Workshop: Training on Community-based Inventorying 19-28 January 2020**

Training on community-based inventorying of ICH was carried out by the ICH Regional Expert Dr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi and assisted by the NICHC. The overall coordinator of the workshop was Ms Gcebile Mavuso. In total 25 participants comprising of 18 community members and 6 NICHC members and the National SG of UNESCO were trained. The training took place in Shiselweni Region, at Casino Royale for a period of 9 days. Participants were capacitated on conducting ICH inventory and documentation including using relevant equipment. The training was split into two parts: theory and practical sessions. The first 6 days was dedicated to theory while the last 3 days was for practical designed to provide participants with hands-on experience on ICH inventory exercise. Equipment to carry out the exercise was purchased and participants were given necessary skills in using the equipment during the workshop. Workshop evaluation was done collectively by the participants at the end of the workshop. A structured questionnaire was administered to participants to solicit views from them on how they think the training had progressed.

During the opening of the workshop speeches by different Government Officials including ENTC and Local Authorities were delivered.

The workshop yielded a number of positive outcomes:

- Awareness of the 2003 Convention, not only to participants of the workshop but also local authorities and community members in the Shiselweni Region especially from those communities who were engaged in the project.
- A total number of 18 community members were trained as trainer of trainers for the region. Four community members were picked by local authorities from the four Chiefdoms that we worked with and two were youth from the NICHC that were robbed in the training to sharpen their skills in ICH inventory and encourage their fellow colleagues. They were equipped with inventorying ICH elements skills as well as the use of equipment during inventory.
- A team that the NICHC will work with in the region was formulated. Four community members were elected by the local authorities from the four chiefdoms that were engaged in the project. These community members not act as focal point on the project for the Shiselweni region and are responsible for spearheading ICH activities in the Shiselweni region.

Due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus the implementation of the project was stopped. The

country announced a state of emergency, which came with a lockdown. During the lockdown period all public gatherings were prohibited and all ENTC staff who are tasked with the project were laid off. With the easing of lockdowns in the country, we are hoping that the project will run smoothly with the communities. As of September 2020, the NICHC is meeting with communities to discuss how the project can proceed during the Covid19 period will be the main discussion. This meeting will then inform how the project will go from now onwards as the Shiselweni region is one of the hard hit regions with Corona in the region.

### **Community involvement**

*Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.*

*Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words*

In 2015 a request was sent to the ENTC by the local authorities from the 14 zones (tinkhundla) in Shiselweni Region asking if it could fund a project to document ICH elements in their area. This was after they had learnt that similar projects had been conducted in some communities in Malindza and Mhlumeni in 2010 and 2014, respectively. They also wanted to have a project of their own seeing that ICH was lost in the region due to several factors. In June 2015, officials from ENTC had a meeting with the Regional Administrator of Shiselweni Region and the Chiefs in order to learn more about their request. Another follow-up meeting was held at the Regional Administrator's Office on 19th February 2016. During this meeting, it was unanimously agreed that a project be developed and submitted to UNESCO to document ICH elements covering all the 14 tinkhundla of the Shiselweni Region.

The selection of the 18 community members trained in the community-based inventory was done by the local authorities in consultation with the practitioners and local councils in their communities. The Chiefs system through the Tinkhundla (a form of local governance) were given the freedom to choose participants in their communities whom they thought were fit for the project. The selection of practitioners responsible for the elements were chosen by the local authorities who are the custodians of culture in their respective areas.

Communities were also given the freedom to choose elements to be documented in their communities. They identified elements to be inventoried which they felt needed to be documented either because they are under threat of disappearing or continue to be misinterpreted or misrepresented. A number of elements were identified by the communities, however, only 3 were covered during the workshop practical session and more will be done during the next phase of the project which is dedicated to fieldwork.

## Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:

- Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.
- Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.

Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community(ies) in particular has been promoted.

Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage).

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

The implementing agency which is the Eswatini National Trust Commission appointed Ms Temahlubi Nkambule (who is currently studying abroad) to work on ICH matters in the country. In the mean-time and from now on Ms Gcebile Mavuso will work hand in hand with Ms Nkambule on ICH matters which means that now there are two officers manning ICH in the Kingdom. The two are responsible for liaising with local authorities and community members in the four regions of country on ICH ensuring that ICH projects are carried out even after the completion of the current project.

The ENTIC has reviewed its Act (SNTC of 1972 amended 1973) governing heritage conservation to include ICH matters. This means that when the ENTIC submit a budget of its activities to the Government it will include a budget on ICH. The Director of Cultural Heritage was tasked with ensuring that ICH activities are carried out and reports are submitted to her office on all work done every quarter. The Director is also responsible for ensuring that reports to UNESCO are submitted on time and all funds donated are accounted. During the official opening and closing of the workshop the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs together with his Officials like the Permanent Secretary, Regional Administrator and traditional authorities from the Shiselweni region pledged support for the project and opened up working spaces for the community members who will man ICH in the region in the future.

## Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- Attainment of expected results
- Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement
- Delivery of project outputs
- Project management and implementation
- Sustainability of the project after the assistance

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

During the introduction of the workshop to the different stakeholders including the local authorities and Government Officials, it was clearly stated that the project is aimed at helping them (communities) to safeguard their own ICH. All the relevant stakeholders in the region were encouraged to fully own the project and the ENTIC as an implementing agency only assists and guide in the process. Community participants were elected at Chiefdom level to work ICH matters in the different communities even after the project period.

Tinkhundla centres, which are Government facilities in the Chiefdoms aimed at ensuring community development at grassroot level volunteered to assist in ensuring safety of the equipment during fieldwork and also provide office space for the community members working on ICH issues. The community member working on ICH will report to the Local Authorities and the ENTIC any progress or work done. The ICH Officers at ENTIC will from

time to time visit the communities to monitor and evaluate progress on the documentation and inventorying of ICH in the region.

The skills acquired during the workshop and awareness on the importance of safeguarding ICH and on the 2003 Convention by community members are shared to the rest of the communities in the region during community meeting in the Tinkhundla centres and Chiefs' kraal (Umphakatsi). The awareness is spread not only to the region under study but also to the whole country with the assistance of the media. The ENTC has a radio programme, "Imvelo Yakitsi" (Our heritage) aired in the national radio Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Services every Tuesdays at 9:30am. ICH Officers are also given a slot in this programme to share to the nation its activities and encourage the nation to voice their concerns and on ICH they wish to be documented in their communities.

Some of previously trained community members from previous ICH capacity building workshops were engaged in the training to share skills to fellow country members and as a way of reviving skills learnt. Some of the youth members; Ms Hlobisile Lulane and Mr Mangaliso Simelane both from the Lubombo Region in Eswatini were trained in 2014 and were given slots during the workshop to share and advise the participants from Shiselweni on ICH.

Another way to ensure sustainability, the trained participants from the workshop are now included and form part of the Regional ICH Committee members in the Shiselweni Region. The Regional ICH Committees were formed to be an extended arm of the NICHC to ensure that even the remote communities in the four regions of the country are reached. The new trained members were introduced to the Shiselweni ICH Regional Committee to work with them and ensure that the whole region is covered. One member from the new trained Community members from the region was elected to be part of the NICHC to ensure that decisions taken by the NICHC are communicated to the communities in the region and that progress and challenges at regional level are communicated to the NICHC.

## Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

- publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable
- progress reports prepared during the contract period
- list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period
- other (please specify)

1. Pictures of elements collected.
2. Video clips for fieldwork.
3. Financial Report

## Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Gcebile Desire Mavuso (Acting Focal Point)

Title: Ms

Date: 9 April 2021

Signature: 

