

## **Final Narrative Report**

<b>Project Title</b>	Strengthening the capacities of Myanmar for Implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
<b>Target Country or Region</b>	Republic of the Union of Myanmar
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<b>Executing Agency</b>	UNESCO
<b>Implementing partners</b>	Ministry of Culture, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
<b>Project starting date</b>	20 June 2013
<b>Project completion date</b>	31 December 2015
<b>Responsible Sector</b>	Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok Office
<b>Persons completing Report</b>	Curtis, Timothy Achilles, Vanessa and Suvanatap, Montakarn

## **I. Summary and Background**

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by the General Conference in October 2003 and entered into force in 2006 after ratification by 30 Member States. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 163 Member States (as of August 2015). Despite the rapid rate of ratification, many States Parties to the Convention still need to appreciate better the concepts and mechanisms established under the Convention. They often lack the human capacities and financial resources to implement the Convention effectively.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar was identified as one of the countries in need of human resource capacity-building. In response, UNESCO implemented from 2013 to 2015 a project aiming at building up the knowledge and skills in both government institutions and civil society of Myanmar. The objective was to ultimately contribute to sustainable frameworks for the long-term implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the country, which was ratified in 2014, during the timeframe of the project.

Generously supported by the Royal Norwegian Government, the project implemented an integrated strategy, including a series of training workshops tailored to respond to the identified needs of the country. UNESCO Bangkok Office coordinated the project in close collaboration with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section (CLT/CRE/ITH) and UNESCO Yangon Office. Two regional expert facilitators were mobilized to facilitate the training workshops, provide technical guidance and policy advice whenever required, and collaborate with the national partners as needs arise. The experts have been trained to use the training curricula developed by UNESCO as a part of the integrated capacity-building strategy. The curricula cover the core concepts of the 2003 Convention and provide a substantial knowledge on the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention.

Following consultations with concerned governmental agencies and stakeholders and need assessment by regional ICH experts, UNESCO organized three capacity-building workshops for Myanmar, namely, (1) the Workshop on Implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at National Level, (2) Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements and (3) Workshop on Elaborating Nomination Files for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists.

Myanmar also benefitted from other interventions, for example consultation on possible policy reforms, discussions on additional funding for long-term safeguarding of ICH and mechanisms to access international assistance. Myanmar also self-funded a pilot community-based inventorying in Shan State following the workshop organized under the project.

Despite a number of challenges, the project succeeded in building a core group of resource persons within the Ministry of Culture and in informing the development of a 5-year strategic plan on ICH mapping. The ratification of the Convention in 2014 confirms that there is currently the political will to concretely engage in the process of safeguarding ICH.

## II. Description of project implementation

	Implementation workshop	Inventory workshop	Nomination workshop
<b>Number of participants</b>	34	42	20
<b>Sex-disaggregated data</b>	<p>A pie chart showing the gender distribution of participants in the Implementation workshop. The chart is divided into two segments: a blue segment representing Men (19) and a maroon segment representing Women (15). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Men and maroon for Women.</p>	<p>A pie chart showing the gender distribution of participants in the Inventory workshop. The chart is divided into two segments: a blue segment representing Men (19) and a maroon segment representing Women (15). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Men and maroon for Women.</p>	<p>A pie chart showing the gender distribution of participants in the Nomination workshop. The chart is divided into two segments: a blue segment representing Men (8) and a maroon segment representing Women (12). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Men and maroon for Women.</p>
<b>Institutions</b>	<p>A pie chart showing the institutional distribution of participants in the Implementation workshop. The chart is divided into four segments: a large blue segment for Government (21), a maroon segment for Academia (8), a light blue segment for NGO/private sector (4), and a very small yellow segment for Practionner (1). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Government, maroon for Academia, light blue for NGO/private sector, and yellow for Practionner.</p>	<p>A pie chart showing the institutional distribution of participants in the Inventory workshop. The chart is divided into four segments: a large blue segment for Government (30), a maroon segment for Academia (9), a light blue segment for NGO/private sector (3), and a very small yellow segment for Practionner (0). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Government, maroon for Academia, light blue for NGO/private sector, and yellow for Practionner.</p>	<p>A pie chart showing the institutional distribution of participants in the Nomination workshop. The chart is divided into four segments: a large blue segment for Government (19), a maroon segment for Academia (0), a light blue segment for NGO/private sector (1), and a very small yellow segment for Practionner (0). A legend below the chart identifies the colors: blue for Government, maroon for Academia, light blue for NGO/private sector, and yellow for Practionner.</p>

<p><b>Continuity in participation</b></p>		<p>33 % of participants attended the implementation workshop</p>	<p>100% of participants attended at least one previous workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 90% attended the community-based inventory workshop.</li> <li>○ 50% attended the implementation workshop.</li> <li>○ 45% attended both the implementation and community-based inventory workshop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Geographic span</b>  7 States (Kayah, Shan, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Chin, Rakhine)  6 Regions: Mangway, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Yangon, Tanintharyi  1 Naypidaw Union Territory</p>	<p>Cultural Officers from all 7 States, 2 regions (Mandalay and Yangon) and Naypidaw were present</p>	<p>Cultural Officers from all 7 States, 3 regions (Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady) and Naypidaw were present.</p>	<p>Cultural Officers from all 7 States, 2 regions (Mandalay and Yangon) and Naypidaw were present</p>

## **A. National Consultation Meetings**

Date: 24-28 November 2013  
Venue: Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Myanmar  
Expert facilitators: Noriko Aikawa-Faure, Paritta C. Koanantakool

Two consultation meetings were arranged with various Myanmar authorities, educational institutes, ICH practitioners and potential stakeholders to assess the current state of ICH safeguarding in the country and identify gaps in legal and institutional frameworks for safeguarding ICH and training needs in Myanmar. The meetings also provided the opportunity for the UNESCO representatives and the expert facilitators to encourage Myanmar's Ministry of Culture headed by H.E. Aye Myint Kyu to consider ratifying the 2003 Convention.

The first consultation meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 24 to 26 November 2013. Thirty-seven (37) high-level officials from various departments of the Ministry of Culture, senior representatives of State Universities, culture officers from the different states and artists participated in the event. The second consultation meeting was held in Yangon from 27 to 28 November 2013. It was attended by twenty (20) Yangon-based key stakeholders.

The consultation meetings revealed the following information:

- A draft ICH Bill was already approved by the cabinet, and examined by the Attorney General. It was, at the time, being considered by the Parliament.
- Prior to the consultation, ICH safeguarding implementation had been under the responsibility of two departments under the Ministry – the Department of Archaeology and Museums, and the Department of Historical Research and National Library. Both institutions had already done significant research on intangible cultural heritage. However, these initiatives were using expert-driven approaches to inventorying, instead of the community-based approach promoted by the 2003 Convention.
- As part of the 2013 re-structuring of the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Fine Arts was designated as the new focal department for ICH. It is to be noted that the mandate of the Department of Fine Arts was mostly on promoting visual arts, performing arts and crafts, which cover only a few of the ICH domains. Also the Department human resources were mostly centralized and that the Department had to rely on staff from the Department of Archaeology and Museum for the implementation of activities related to ICH at the local level.
- The parties consulted expressed their need for capacity-building in community-based inventorying as well as in preparing nomination files to the ICH Lists.
- The expert facilitators reported the need for the formulation of a national policy and legal framework for safeguarding ICH, and that the responsible national agency should have adequate technical and human resources at the national and local levels. Closer collaboration between different departments in the Ministry of Culture and universities was also necessary to the success of capacity-building training.

## **B. Workshop on Implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at National Level**

Date: 19-24 May 2014  
Venue: Mandalay, Myanmar  
Expert facilitators: Noriko Aikawa-Faure, Paritta C. Koanantakool

The workshop provided an overview of the objectives and key safeguarding concepts of the 2003 Convention as well as the obligations of States Parties and the mechanisms for international cooperation. Thirty-four (34) participants benefitted from the workshop. Most of them took part during the consultation meetings in November 2013. Cultural Officers from all seven States as well as Mandalay, Yangon and Naypidaw were present.

The Minister of Culture designated the Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture of Mandalay to assist in the organization of the workshop. Though the Department of Fine Arts was designated as the focal point for ICH, only one junior officer from the Department took part in the workshop. Most of the Ministry officials who participated in the workshop came from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum which has conducted significant researches and documentation of ICH through the network of State Museums and Cultural Officers. The increased number of participants from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum resulted in a more productive discussion and allowed for more state (provincial) level inputs.

This workshop was initially planned to cover both the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Convention. However, Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention two weeks before the start of the workshop, thus the expert facilitators adjusted their training programme to focus only on the effective implementation of the Convention at the national level. The facilitators included in the workshop agenda a day-long field study visit in locations where the following crafts and rituals were practiced.

- Bronze casting craft in Tamapawaddy, Chanmyathase Township, Mandalay
- Silk weaving craft in Muand Dan Quarter, Amarapura Township, Mandalay
- *Nat* spirit worship in Mandalay where four spirit mediums/practitioners were interviewed.

The field trip provided the participants to understand the essential role of communities in safeguarding ICH.

## **C. Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements**

Date: 27 October – 3 November 2014  
Venue: Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan State, Myanmar  
Expert facilitators: Noriko Aikawa-Faure, Paritta C. Koanantakool

The eight-day community-based inventorying workshop was held in Nyaung Shwe, a port town at the north entrance to the Inle Lake. Forty-two (42) participants, mostly from the three departments of the Ministry of Culture and two universities in Yangon attended. Three participants were from the local communities of ICH practitioners and two represented NGOs active in the area. The workshop was dominated by female participants: 27 of them (or 64%) were female. Cultural Officers from all 7 States, 3 regions (Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady) and Naypidaw were present

The workshop was very well organized by the Cultural Museum of Taunggyi under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. However, the increased number of participants from the Department of Historical Research and National Library and the active role of the Department's Director General in coordinating workshop activities hinted the shift of responsibility on ICH to the Department of Historical Research and National Library.

Both Departments had already started compiling inventories of ICH, using different guidelines: a handbook published by ICHCAP (International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, a UNESCO Category II Centre) and one published by the Indonesian Ministry of Culture in 2009. Unfortunately, these 2 handbooks used an expert-driven approach instead of the community-based approach suggested by the 2003 Convention. Therefore, the two experts gave considerable time discussing the concepts of the stewardship of communities over their ICH, viability, modality of transmission and customary laws concerning access – concepts that are little considered in the two handbooks. Participants were encouraged to consider these important aspects of inventorying in their interaction with the community members during the field exercises.

The two-day field exercises of working with local communities within the Inle Lake took place in the following villages.

- Shay Wagyi Village – traditional fishing
- Kaylar Village – floating vegetable gardening
- Kyauk Taing Village – pottery making
- Yiyglay Village – boatbuilding
- Heya Ywama Village – silversmith craft and painting on palm leaves

Free, prior and informed consents were obtained in the villages. The villagers were taught how to use the documentation equipment and took photographs of elements which are important to them within their villages. The group reports following the field practicum revealed the high level of understanding among the participants on how community-based inventorying should be done in the spirit of the 2003 Convention.

#### **D. Workshop on Elaborating Nomination Files for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists**

Date: 14-18 September 2015  
Venue: Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, Myanmar  
Expert facilitators: Noriko Aikawa-Faure, Paritta C. Koanantakool

The workshop prioritized the knowledge and skills in preparing nomination dossiers for Urgent Safeguarding List with International Assistance, while still including case studies of elements nominated to Representative List. The intensive lectures and classroom debates aimed to prompt the participants for their future involvement in the ICH nomination file drafting team for the Ministry of Culture. Core skills taught in this workshop included technical assessment of nomination documents, identifying and describing ICH elements, developing community participation strategy in nomination process, constructing effective safeguarding measures and plans, as well as an experimental drafting of a nomination file for Urgent Safeguarding List.

UNESCO was informed that H.E. U Aye Myint Kyu was re-appointed to continue his duty as Union Minister for Culture. This was a good news that can ensure Myanmar's commitment to proceed with developing safeguarding measures for its ICH elements and drafting nomination files.

For this workshop, the Department of Historical Research and National Library had taken full responsibility as the agency responsible for preparing nomination files for ICH. Nevertheless, the Department still relied on the staff capacity of Department of Archaeology and National Museum. Therefore, a large number of DoA staff were selected to participate in this training workshop.

Attempting to maintain the continuity from the previous workshop, the five-day workshop was held in Taunggyi, South Shan State, which is a big town near Inle Lake. Two villages were

selected by the expert facilitators as case studies for a half-day field exercise, namely, Kaylar Village (floating vegetable gardening) and Nam Pang Village (boatbuilding). They were two of five Intha villages visited by participants during the Workshop on Community-based Inventorying.

Most of the participants selected to join this workshop were those attending one or both of the previous capacity-building workshops: Workshop on Implementing the 2003 Convention at National Level (May 2014) and Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of ICH Elements (November 2014). Some also participated in the National Consultation Meetings in 2013. Thus, the participants were familiar with the Convention and its key concepts and were able to raise issues and analyse situations related to their works in relation to the implementation of the Convention in their country.

Moreover, they were familiar with working with one another, resulting in active participation and contribution of ideas and criticism. It was observed that field-workers could openly discuss on many important issues to high-level officials at this workshop. A few participants exhibited leadership. This dynamic contributed to satisfying quality of the mock nominations as end results of the workshop.

Twelve (12) participants were women, while eight (8) were men. Most women participants hold high positions in the Ministry of Culture. It is obvious that the participation of women in this workshop was very high. The facilitators had to encourage male participants to speak up and express their opinions.

The workshop boosted confidence of the government to start planning more seriously on legal frameworks for ICH safeguarding and on preparing nomination files of their ICH elements. The fact that the workshops have been built upon one another has increased the participants' awareness of the Convention, its key concepts and options of sustainable ways to safeguard ICH. More constructive discussions took place at this workshop, demonstrating that the participants have had analytical level of understanding of the Convention and that they started to question the practicality of the Conventions' obligations in the socio-cultural context of their country.

Cultural officers of the 7 states in Myanmar and 2 regions learnt how to draft the nomination files at this workshop. The quality of their mock nominations, according to Ms Noriko Aikawa, was "at the level that can be considered by the Committee". With the establishment of the National Steering Committee per the experts' recommendation, and the institutional capacity of the Department of Historical Research and National Library, these participants were likely to be assigned into the nomination file drafting team in the near future.

Moreover, the participants were determined to pass on their new knowledge to colleagues and community leaders in their home bases, as they have done after the Workshop on Community-based Inventorying. With such network of trained human resource and the quality of their teamwork, we can hope to see more short-term and mid-term positive developments in Myanmar on ICH safeguarding.

### **III. Progress towards results**

Under Expected Result 1 on the ratification of the Convention and integration of its principles into cultural and other policies and legislation, applying a gender-response approach:

- Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention in early May 2014
- The expert facilitators have provided technical and policy guidance through their lectures and plenary sessions during the project activities which have already been implemented.

Under Expected Result 2 on the establishment of the institutional infrastructure tailored to specific needs of safeguarding and applying gender-responsive approach:



- Establishing working committee for ICH nomination
  - A National Committee for Cultural Heritage was established and is led by the Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar. It functions as an inter-ministerial committee, consisting of Ministers of related Ministries: Ministry of Culture (focal point), Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Cooperation and Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. This Committee will oversee all activities related to cultural heritage, including ICH.
  - The National Committee then formed the Steering Committee for ICH in February 2015. The committee is led by the Union Minister for Culture and consists of Director-Generals of concerned Departments, rectors of universities, directors of museums and libraries. The secretariat of the committee is the Department of Historical Research and National Libraries, led by Dr Nanda Hmun, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry and the Department's Director-General. As of October 2015, it was not active yet.
 

The Steering Committee will lead the process of nomination file preparation. It will establish a working committee, including local government bodies, for each nomination drafting team.
  - Once the ICH elements to be nominated are identified (likely to be after the general election), the Steering Committee will form a working committee for each ICH element which consists of local governmental bodies and communities to work closely with the nomination drafting team.

Under Expected Result 3 on Myanmar's utilizing the strengthened and human resources for the effective safeguarding of ICH:

- Two consultation meetings were organized in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon (24-28 November 2013) to identify the training needs and gaps in the policy and institutional frameworks for safeguarding ICH. A total of 57 key stakeholders from the Ministry of Culture, cultural officers from different States, state universities and artists were consulted during the consultation meetings.
- The second activity, the Workshop on Implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at National Level, was organized in Mandalay from 19 to 24 May 2014. Thirty-four (34) participants representing the three departments of the Ministry of Culture, State universities, culture officers from different states and artists benefitted from the workshop.
- The third activity, the Workshop on Community-based Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements, was held in Nyaung Shwe from 27 October to 3 November 2014. Forty-two participants attended.
- The last Workshop on Elaborating Nomination Files for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists was organized in Nyaung Shwe, Inle, Shan State, from 14 to 19 September 2015. Twenty- (20) participants were from two departments of the Ministry of Culture, which are the main actors in the preparation of the ICH nomination files for Myanmar.

Under Expected Result 4 on the establishment or revision of a framework and methodology for inventorying ICH with the participation of communities and NGOs:

- The workshop on community-based inventorying of ICH was organized in Nyaung Shwe, Inle, Myanmar from 28 October to 3 November 2014. The workshop covered the essential features of inventorying under the Convention, basic conceptual understandings of research planning and design, elaboration of a community-appropriate inventory questionnaire/template, and technical skills in description and documentation. In the

plenary session and field practicum, the facilitators took extra effort to discuss aspects of inventorying (i.e. community stewardship over their ICH, viability, customary laws and others) which are not given due consideration in the guidelines provided by the ICHCAP and Indonesian handbooks on inventorying used by the Ministry. These principles have already been taken into account during the revision of inventories in Kavin State and Mandalay. It is expected that they will pave the way for the revision of the framework and methodology for inventorying ICH in Myanmar.

### Summary Table

<b>Overall goal of the project</b>			<b>Overall assessment :</b>	
To enhance the capacity of Myanmar to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage, particularly through the effective implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage			Achieved. Project activities have been successfully organized and the evaluation of participants by facilitators confirms that institutional capacity was strengthened.	
<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Target (T)/baselines (b)</b>		<b>Achievement(s)</b>	<b>Outputs/deliverables contributing to expected results</b>
	<b>Programmed</b>	<b>Attained</b>		
<b>Expected Result N° 1</b> Myanmar ratifies the Convention and integrate its principles into cultural and other policies and legislation, applying a gender-responsive approach	<b>PI:</b> Ratification of the Convention by Myanmar  <b>T/b:</b> Convention not ratified when project implementation started	Attained	Facilitators provided technical and policy advice to encourage authorities to establish / formulate policies for the effective safeguarding of ICH.	Myanmar ratified the 2003 Convention in early May 2014.  57 key stakeholders were consulted in November 2013, during which the need for ratification was particularly stressed.
	<b>PI:</b> ICH integrated into Myanmar's cultural and other policies  <b>T/b:</b> The principles of the Convention not considered in existing policies	Not yet attained, but in progress		

<p><b>Expected Result N° 2</b></p> <p>Myanmar establish the institutional infrastructure for the effective safeguarding of ICH</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Adequate institutional infrastructure established</p> <p><b>T/b:</b> No adequate institutional infrastructure established before project started</p>	<p>Not yet attained, but in progress</p>	<p>A National Committee of Cultural Heritage (including ICH) was established by the Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar</p> <p>A Steering Committee for ICH was established in February 2015.</p>	<p>Four (4) capacity-building activities implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation meetings (November 2013)</li> <li>• Implementation workshop (May 2013)</li> <li>• Community-based inventorying workshop (October 2013)</li> <li>• Nomination workshop (September 2015)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Result No 3</b></p> <p>Myanmar utilize the strengthened institutional and human resources for the effective safeguarding of ICH</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Number of cultural officers, community members and NGO members trained</p> <p><b>T/b:</b> No person trained prior to project implementation</p>	<p>Partially attained</p>	<p>Four (4) activities implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation meetings (November 2013)</li> <li>• Implementation workshop (May 2013)</li> <li>• Community-based inventorying workshop (October 2013)</li> <li>• Nomination workshop (September 2015)</li> </ul> <p>Trained staff transferred their skills to colleagues through locally-organized workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 57 key stakeholders consulted during the consultation meetings</li> <li>• 34 stakeholders participated during the implementation workshop</li> <li>• 42 stakeholders benefitted from the community-based inventorying workshop</li> <li>• 20 stakeholders benefitted from the nomination workshop</li> <li>• Snow-balling effect in capacity-building</li> <li>• A 5-year plan for ICH mapping has been prepared</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Result No 4</b></p> <p>Myanmar establish / revise framework and methodology for inventorying ICH with the participation of communities and relevant NGOs</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Inventorying framework and methodology revised</p> <p><b>T/b:</b> Documentation of ICH used the ICHCAP and Indonesian handbooks</p>	<p>Partially attained, in progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based inventorying workshop covered appropriate methodology for inventorying ICH in the spirit of the Convention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 key stakeholders benefitted from the community-based inventorying workshop</li> <li>• Practical field survey and ICH inventorying in pilot communities nor yet implemented)</li> <li>• Inventories in Kayin State and Mandalay revised.</li> <li>• Other inventories are being compiled and are in the process of revision.</li> </ul>

## IV. Sustainability and exit / transition strategy

### 1. Core team trained

The Ministry has carefully selected and mobilized key Ministry officials (representing the three departments of the Ministry), senior representatives of concerned state universities involved in ICH and cultural officers from the different states (provinces) to participate in the project activities. As noted by the expert facilitators, the participants are intelligent and eager to learn from the workshop. Most of them seem to have studied the Convention before the consultation meetings started. This may indicate the keen interest of the Ministry to strengthen its institutional capacities and utilize its key human resources for the effective safeguarding ICH. Several participants also participated in all workshops, and most of them in several workshops. Through the Norway-funded programme, a core group of people has developed a thorough understanding of the Convention and constitutes an essential reference point for the future development and implementation of ICH safeguarding plans.

### 2. Updating of inventories in process

As mentioned earlier, prior to this project, Myanmar initiated the development of several inventories, which led to the collection of a large number of data but did not incorporate the community-led inventorying principles. The community-based inventory workshop allowed the Ministry to become aware of the shortcomings of the early initiatives. As a result, existing inventories are being reviewed and will progressively be updated.

### 3. Increased involvement of communities

At the start of the project, the role of ICH practitioners and communities in government-initiated researches on ICH was limited to being informants, and NGOs were not participating. The facilitators took extra effort to explain the important roles that communities and NGOs play in the safeguarding of ICH. This situation prompted the facilitators to include in the implementation workshop programme a one-day field study visit to two crafts villages and practitioners of the *Nat* spirit worship. Two days were devoted to a field practicum in communities during the community-based inventorying workshop. An extra half day was also included in the nomination workshop. Free, prior and informed consent was obtained from all communities visited during the workshops. The practicum enabled the participants to understand better the concept of community participation in the identification, inventorying and transmission of ICH elements. It is hoped that this principle can later be implemented in the safeguarding plan developed by the government.

### 4. Ways forward

Having just ratified the 2003 Convention and re-engaged with international processes, Myanmar has still a lot to accomplish before the State Party can effectively implement the 2003 Convention.

During the community-based inventory in 2014, the facilitators developed a series of short-term and long-term recommendations. The table below summarizes these recommendations and progress accomplished in the following 10 months as reported by the Department of Historical Research and National Library during the Nomination workshop.

Item	Short-term recommendations (November 2014)	Implementation status (September 2015)
1	Revision of two existing inventories, which have been undertaken independently by the Department of Fine Arts and State Museums,	The MOC is undertaking a compilation of inventories. Two existing inventories (Mandalay, Kayin) have been revised to

	to conform to the principles of the 2003 Convention; establishment of a better coordination between them.	conform to UNESCO framework. The inventories compiled by the Department of Fine Arts and other departments of the ministry have not yet been revised. No particular efforts have been deployed to ensure a better coordination between and among different entities carrying out inventories of ICH elements.
2	Organization of local workshops to promote community-based inventorying by mobilizing the participants to the UNESCO Community-Based Inventorying workshop, notably local cultural officers, as facilitators and using the UNESCO teaching materials that were made available to them.	Two local workshops have been organized: Dec 2014 In Nyaungshwe for junior staff working on world heritage and ICH, and Aug 2015 in Nyaungshwe. Universities and colleges under MOC have been instructed to introduce ICH into related modules. ICH-related topics were integrated into the “Museum Diploma Course” (post graduate level) organized by the Ministry of Culture. Each of the eight State’s participants of the 2014 community-based inventory workshop organized a local training workshop making use of the PPT presentations that were made available to them. At local and community levels, associations have been created with a view to the safeguarding of their ICH. Their activities were undertaken more actively in the Shan State where the previous and recent workshops took place. More workshops are foreseen in November and December 2015.
3	Identification of a location to deposit inventories of ICH in order to facilitate the access to them by the public.	The Ministry of Culture is planning to create a location to deposit inventories of ICH that will ensure the access of the practitioners’ communities and the general public.
4	Establishment of a working committee responsible for ICH nominations, followed by identification of ICH elements for submission for both lists: the Representative List and Urgent Safeguarding List. These candidatures should be as inclusive as possible.	A National of Cultural Heritage (including ICH) was established by the Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar (Interministerial Committee). A National Steering Committee for ICH, led by the Union Minister of Culture, was established in February 2015. Its members are Director-Generals of different departments, rectors of Universities, directors of museums and libraries and its Secretary-General is Daw Nanda Hmun, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Culture and Director-General of the Department of Historical Research and National Library.
5	Awareness-raising programmes on the importance of ICH safeguarding throughout the country in cooperation with media	The Ministry of Culture has been promoting ICH through training workshops and the Ministry of Information has been collecting audio-visual documentation.

### Long-term recommendations:

Item	Long-term recommendations (November 2014)	Implementation status (September 2015)
1	Establishment of a national policy for the safeguarding of ICH	Under discussion
2	Establishment of a national law for the safeguarding of ICH	Under discussion
3	Establishment or identification of a body that will implement the safeguarding measures	Under discussion
4	Establishment of a network of institutions related to ICH safeguarding throughout the country	Under discussion.
5	Integration of ICH teaching into the school curriculum	Some ICH content (the 12-month festival) has been introduced in schools.
6	Taking necessary measures to promote community level ICH transmission	Under discussion
7	Establishment or identification of a body that will foster the training of ICH management	Workshop participants plan to conduct local workshops in November and December 2015.

The Ministry of Culture has drafted a 5-year work plan for ICH mapping, which was presented at the ICHCAP South-East Asia Networking meeting, Hanoi, October 2015 (see annex 4). This work plan incorporates several of the elements above. The draft is to be finalized and approved but already provides a good indication of the priorities identified by Myanmar. This 5-year strategy is quite ambitious and may require sustained assistance from UNESCO beyond what the current project can deliver.

The interest and enthusiasm gained by the Minister and key ministry officials from completed project activities need to be sustained to realize the project goal of enhancing Myanmar's capacity of safeguarding its ICH, particularly in the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. In terms of capacity-building, it would be very relevant to complement the current cycle of trainings with the upcoming modules on the development of safeguarding measures. It may also be useful to provide advisory services in the field of policy development and to evaluate the outcomes of the inventories compilation and revisions.

### V. Visibility

(see annex 3 for further details)

Completed capacity building activities and references to the generous contribution of the donor: the government of Norway are featured in the dedicated UNESCO website on intangible cultural heritage ([www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich)), as well as the website of UNESCO Bangkok Office ([www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich/regional-workshops](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/ich/regional-workshops)). By linking up with UNESCO's existing social media network, news about the capacity building activities in the region are reaching more than 600,000 followers.

Donor visibility has also been ensured with the inclusion of the logo of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in all printed materials such as banners, certificates of participation distributed to participants, name tags and workshop programmes.

The UNESCO Satellite Office in Yangon has informed and invited the Norwegian Embassy to grace the opening ceremonies of the project activities which were organized. Considering that the activities were organized outside Yangon, no embassy official was able to attend the

consultation meeting at Nay Pyi Taw, the implementation workshop in Mandalay and the community-based inventorying workshop and nomination workshop in Shan State.

During the community-based inventorying workshop in October-November 2014, there was a strong media attention on UNESCO's work to increase Myanmar's capacity to safeguard its ICH. Local television channels came to observe the whole duration of the workshop and interviewed UNESCO representatives and participants. The Norwegian government's generous support on this project was mentioned in several on-site interviews.



*The Union Minister of Culture with participants and experts at the Workshop on Elaborating Nomination Files for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, 14-18 September 2015, Shan State*

## **VI. Challenges and lessons learnt**

### **1. Political situation**

In light of the recent political and social reform in Myanmar and the re-engagement of the government with international processes, the planning stage took considerable time. Project activities started to be implemented only in November 2013 after the project got approved by the Minister of Culture.

With the recent ratification of the 2003 Convention and the inscription of the Pyu Ancient Cities in the World Heritage List, the Minister of Culture has shown keen interest in the project by presiding over the opening ceremonies of the inventorying and nomination workshops. Following the upcoming national elections in November 2015, there may be a change of leadership in the Ministry which would have an impact on how future project activities will be implemented.

The responsibility of ICH safeguarding has also been moved between different departments. At the start of the project, ICH fell under the responsibility of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, and the Department of Historical Research and National Library. The Department of Fine Arts was later designated as the focal department for ICH. At the end of the project, the responsibility was returned to the Department of Historical Research and National Library. These changes have slowed down the decision-making process and the development of a strategic plan. However, capacity-building workshops included representatives from all departments, including many staff from the States' offices of the Department of Archaeology and Museums who can implement activities at the local level. This contributed to the flow of information between stakeholders as well as between States and Regions.

### **2. Need for policy advisory services**

Though a majority of participants in the project include senior Ministry officials and culture officers, it will take time for the Ministry to formulate appropriate policies and legislation and strengthen the institutional framework for safeguarding ICH, in the spirit of the 2003

Convention. The technical and policy guidance provided by the expert facilitators are limited to their lectures within the limited duration of each project activity. Given this, there may be need to mobilize policy experts to provide more in-depth consultation and discussions with key authorities to expedite the process. UNESCO will follow-up in case the Ministry requests this enhanced assistance.

### **3. Understanding of the concept of ICH**

- Scope

The interpretation of ICH in Myanmar covers visual arts, music, oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, festive events and traditional handicrafts. At the start of the project, knowledge systems and practices concerning nature and the universe were not acknowledged as ICH. Given this, the expert facilitators provided adequate space to discuss these two domains during the consultation meetings and the implementation workshop. During the inventory and nomination workshops, traditional fishing techniques and floating vegetable gardening techniques were selected as some of the case studies for the field practicum, demonstrating a shift in mind-sets and a broader understanding of concepts.

- Limited community involvement

As mentioned previously, the Department of Archaeology and National Museums and the Department of Historical Research and Library have conducted significant research and documentation of ICH elements nationwide. The models used do not give sufficient importance to the participation of communities, stewardship over their ICH and aspects such as viability, modality of transmission and customary laws concerning access. Given this, the expert facilitators have emphasized these important concepts and had them integrated into the list of topics that were discussed by the participants with community members visited during the field practicum of the inventorying workshop. This is paving the way to the revision of the inventorying methodology currently undertaken by the Ministry.

Although convincing organizers to involve community members and NGO was a challenge, the exchanges between the latter and government officials were very rich. Field activities were an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the valuable contribution made by practitioners in the documentation process.

### **4. Project design**

- Deliverables

When the ICH project in Myanmar was being conceptualized, Myanmar had not yet ratified the 2003 Convention, thus the training workshop on the preparation of nomination files to the ICH Lists and requests for International Assistance was not included in the list of project activities. With the ratification of the 2003 Convention, the Minister himself and workshop participants have requested that the training workshop on the elaboration of nomination files to the ICH Lists and requests for International Assistance be organized after the ongoing inventorying workshop.

- Budget

The Ministry of Culture is not willing to receive project funds for the organization of project activities. To enable the effective organization of the activities, UNESCO had to subcontract the services of an external service provider in Myanmar for the provision of food, accommodation and transportation of participants, which resulted in higher costs compared to budget estimates.

The cost of organizing project activities in Myanmar highly increased during the timeframe of the project, making it challenging to organize the last workshop with a critical mass of participants (accommodation, transportation, interpretation and translation). It is to be



expected that the prices will keep going up over the next years. A future project should allow provision to face to expected high inflation rate.

The change in priorities identified by the Government of Norway resulted in delays in the release of allotments for the project, which in turn created delays in the implementation. The Workshop on Community-based Inventorying was expected to be organized in July 2014 and had to be postponed to late October 2014. Similarly, the Workshop on Nomination was originally planned in the first quarter of 2015 and delayed until September.

## 5. Workshops structure

- Logistical issues

During both the community-based inventory and the nomination workshops, the venue was changed at the last minute by the organizing partner. Thanks to the flexibility and effectiveness of the sub-contractor managing the logistic, these changes could be accommodated and did not disrupt the flow of the workshop. Nevertheless, these changes were time-consuming for the UNESCO team and should be avoided,

- Active learning

Similarly to capacity building workshops in other beneficiary countries, it was noted that participants learn more from group discussions, role playing and field exercises than from the formal lectures (possibly because of language difficulties). Given this, the expert facilitators minimized their presentations to the basic ideas while more space was provided for group activities and field exercises. This strategy also encouraged the less vocal among the participants to contribute more to the discussions and group decisions. Moreover, the training kits on the thematic workshops were heavily customized to the context of Myanmar, using case studies of Myanmar and neighbouring Asian countries.

- Language issues: translation and simultaneous translation

Most participants are not proficient in English language. The identification of a qualified interpreter was essential to the success of the programme. The same interpreter was hired for the implementation, community-based inventory and nomination workshops, ensuring continuity and consistency in the translation of concepts.

The facilitators also selected the hand-outs and supporting materials required for the workshop in advance to provide adequate time for translation into Myanmar language.

- Continuity in participation

UNESCO encourages the Ministry of Culture to ensure continuity among participants. Because of the change of focal points, this proved to be a challenging request. Yet, there was a reasonable continuity in participation.

The facilitators confirmed that participants' familiarity with the concepts of the Convention was very noticeable and allowed deeper discussions in the last workshop.

- Preparation of field visits

Acquiring a written consent prior the actual field visit was not successful because the local officials could not explain the objective of FPIC to the villagers. Nevertheless, the participants managed to explain about the key concepts of ICH and the role of community people in safeguarding ICH and obtain the signed consents from the interviewed villagers before they started the interviews. Heads of villages were essential in organizing and facilitating the logistics to maximize the use of time during the field visit

The preparation of the future workshops should include one or two days with fee for a team of former trainees to prepare the field visit with local communities and obtain proper written FPICs prior the workshop.

## **Annexes**

### **1. List of national and international staff**

- Timothy Curtis, Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok
- Susanne Schnuttgen, Chief of the Capacity Building and Heritage Policy Unit of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section
- Giovanni Scepi, Programme Implementation Unit, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, Division for Creativity
- Vanessa Achilles, Project Coordinator, UNESCO Bangkok
- Ricardo Favis, Project Coordinator, UNESCO Bangkok
- Ohnmar Myo, National Project Officer for Culture, UNESCO Yangon Office
- Montakarn Suvanatap, Communication and Programme Assistant, UNESCO Bangkok Office

### **2. List of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination contract period**

Six sets of digital cameras with built-in video recorders, audio recorders with microphones. These equipment were turned over to the Ministry to enable the Ministry continue documentation and inventorying of ICH elements in local communities.

### 3. Visibility

#### a. Visibility in media

The workshop was under attention of UNESCO Headquarters and was featured in websites of UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Paris. With attendance of the Union Minister for Culture at the opening ceremony, there was press attention and the event was featured in local television news on 14 September 2015.

The screenshot shows the UNESCO website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'English', 'Français', 'Español', 'Pycckий', 'العربية', and '中文'. A search bar with 'Google Custom Search' is present. The UNESCO logo and tagline 'Building peace in the minds of men and women' are prominently displayed. Below this, there are menu items: 'ABOUT US', 'THEMES', 'COUNTRIES', 'PARTNERSHIPS', 'JOIN US', and 'RESOURCES'. The main content area features the event title 'Workshop on Elaborating Nomination Files to Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists'. It includes details such as the date and time (Monday, 14 September 2015 - 12:00am to Friday, 18 September 2015 - 11:00pm), location (Myanmar, Nyaung Shwe, Shan State), event type (Category 7-Seminar and Workshop), and contact information (Vanessa Achilles v.achilles@unesco.org). A brief description of the workshop is provided, along with a note that it is supported by the Royal Government of Norway. On the right side, there is a 'DETAILS' section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and a 'UNESCO ON THE MAP' section with a map interface.

Source: [en.unesco.org/events/workshop-elaborating-nomination-files-intangible-cultural-heritage-lists](http://en.unesco.org/events/workshop-elaborating-nomination-files-intangible-cultural-heritage-lists)

The screenshot shows a news article on the UNESCO website. The top navigation bar includes 'UNESCO', 'Education', 'Natural Sciences', 'Social and Human Sciences', 'Culture', 'Communication and Information', and 'Media Services'. The article is titled 'Myanmar concludes its capacity-building project' and is dated '14 September 2015'. It describes a workshop in Taunggyi, Shan State, Myanmar, aimed at strengthening skills for inventorying and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The article mentions 24 participants, including cultural officers, scholars, and practitioners, and notes that the workshop is supported by the Royal Norwegian Government. A sidebar on the left lists various categories under 'Intangible Heritage', such as 'About Intangible Heritage', 'Convention', 'Periodic reporting', 'General Assembly', 'Intergovernmental Committee', 'NGO, institutions and experts', 'Lists and Register', 'Capacity-building', 'International Assistance', 'Donors and partners', 'Meetings', 'Projects', and 'Publications'. Below the main text, there are navigation arrows and dates for related news items: '21 September 2015 - Safeguarding living heritage of Kallawayá communities in Bolivia' and '10 September 2015 - New steps for safeguarding living heritage in Albania'.

Source: [www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/news/Myanmar-concludes-its-capacity-building-project-00143](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/news/Myanmar-concludes-its-capacity-building-project-00143)

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Associated Historic Towns World Heritage Site



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*Cultural Heritage  
Conservation*

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Cultural Resource  
Management

Source: [www.unescobkk.org/culture](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture)

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- Arab States -

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- Europe and North Amer -

- Latin America and the C -

Lists of States Parties

**NEWS**

**African experts advise on effective support to policy development**

28 September 2015 – UNESCO is bringing together 24 experts from Africa and UNESCO field offices in Constantine, Algeria, from 28 September to 2 October 2015, to discuss how best support policy development in the field of intangible cultural heritage. Under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, States are encouraged to develop public policy and legislation with the widest possible involvement of communities and civil society... >>>

**Safeguarding living heritage of Kallawayas communities in Bolivia**

21 September 2015 – Following months of consultation and coordination meetings, Kallawayas community members, as well as representatives of the San Pablo Bolivian Catholic University (SECRAD), has assembled in Charazani, La Paz, from the 13 to 18 September 2015 for a transmission workshop aimed at safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of the Kallawayas... >>>

**Myanmar concludes its capacity-building project**

14 September 2015 – The town of Taunggyi, Shan State, in Myanmar is hosting this week (from 14 to 18 September 2015) a workshop on how to elaborate nomination files for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists. This is the final chapter of the capacity-building project, which has been generously supported by the Royal Norwegian Government through a contribution to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The two-year national project has been implemented since 2013 with the aim to strengthen skills of human resources in Myanmar for the inventing and safeguarding of its intangible cultural heritage... >>>

**HIGHLIGHTS**

#Unite4Heritage

- 2016 forms under release
- 2015 files under process
- Evaluation and audit
- Best safeguarding practices
- Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development
- Emblem

**RECENT MEETINGS**

25/29-09-2015, Suva  
Training on the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national ...

14/18-09-2015, Taunggyi  
Training on the use of the mechanisms of the 2003 Convention for the ...

02/07-09-2015, Loja  
Inventorying of intangible cultural heritage in Ecuador

24-08-2015/29-09-2015, Riobamba  
Inventorying of living heritage in Ecuador

27/31-07-2015, Praia  
Training workshop on the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention

All meetings >

See all news >

Source: [www.unesco.org/culture/ich](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich)

## b. Special events

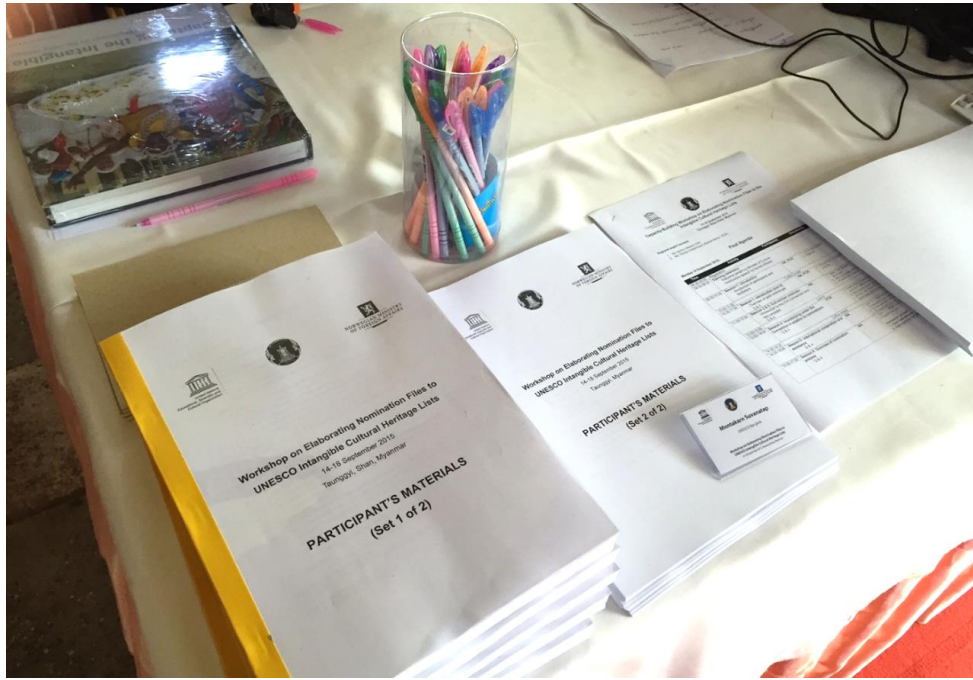
Union Minister H.E. U Aye Myint Kyu attended the opening ceremony of the workshop on 14 September 2015 at Taunggyi Hotel. In his speech (see Annex F), he acknowledged the development resulted by UNESCO's intervention under this project. He also raised awareness of the future goals of ICH safeguarding that the Ministry has wanted to achieve, including promoting the participation of local ICH practitioners.

"The capacities of staff and intangible cultural heritage management of state bodies have been strengthened. With the technical assistance of UNESCO, we formulated a roadmap for the long-term safeguarding of ICH. However, there is still much of work to be done so that intangible cultural heritage elements in Myanmar can revive, exist and be perpetuated in the actual contexts where created. The challenges are how to balance preservation and development; how to improve the effects of projects; how to promote the role of all social sectors, especially the tradition-owning communities."

## c. Logo placement in UNESCO's materials

The logos of UNESCO, Ministry of Culture and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were placed on the stage banner, workshop materials, name badges and certificates given to the participants.





#### Annex 4: Draft 5-year work plan for intangible cultural heritage mapping

(presented at ICHCAP South-East Asia Networking meeting, Hanoi, October 2015)

Category	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Expected Output
Forming of National-level ICH Safeguarding Committee / Working Groups / Sub-Working Groups at States/ Regions	Ministerial-level / Working Committee / Working Groups / Sub-working Groups	State and Regions/ Respective Working Groups by field/ Subject/etc.	Forming of Community Groups among grass root level	Stakeholders at Respective level with different background	Systematic way of Formation/Drawing necessary Terms of Reference / National Level Working Groups
Holding National Level Workshops Capacity Building and Refresher Courses	Grass root level / Departmental level Workshops	Holding Refresher Courses at different level	Organizing of National Level Meetings (by Union / by Region)	Co-organizing of Sub Regional Meetings	Strengthening Networking for updates and regional cooperation mechanism
Directory of ICH/ Inventory of ICH Database of ICH	Collection of Data and Information of each Working Group (Reformation of the collected data before 2016 to be right format of UNESCO)	Collection of Data/ Listing the ICH Stakeholders at different level/ And their collection	Building and sharing of ICH data Base ( of Union)	Building and sharing of ICH data Base (of Regions)	Formulation of ICH Networking and Guidelines
Photo Collection / Gallery / Exhibition / Flyers / Pamphlets	Collection of Good Photography Works on ICH (by states / region )	Building On-line Photo Gallery	Awareness Raising by Photo Exhibition	Publishing of Photo Collection (by Union / by Region)	Extension of Online Photo Gallery
Drawing Plan of Action for the ICH Mapping	Categorizing the Collected ICH Data/ Stakeholders	Description of ICH and its background	Drawing Mapping and Allocation of Surveys	Time Table and Frame	Selection of Good casebook