

Form ICH-04 (2008-09) – International Assistance

Part 2: The Request Format
Form ICH-04

Request for International Assistance from the Intangible Heritage
Fund

Cover Sheet

A. Project Title

The Elaboration of the "Inventories of the Representative list and list in need of urgent safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia"

B. Submitting State Party

Mongolia

C. Beneficiary community, group, or if appropriate, individuals:

The Mongolian people and whole Mongolia are a beneficiary community of this project. ICH inventory is a first step to further research and safeguarding activities in these areas. Developing the inventories of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) within the Mongolian territory, the specialized institutions, experts as well as individual people will be provided as data collection and information resource for their knowledge and research work. The bearers of the ICH in Mongolia will be identified and recognized by the state based on the inventories. This inventory hopes to mark an encouraging step for bearers, artists, musicians, writers, teachers alike to instilling a stronger sense of pride in their dedication to teaching, creating and performing. Mongolian government, namely the Ministry of education, culture and science, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO will have the solid foundation of safeguarding ICH in Mongolia as an inventory of ICH.

D. Is this an emergency request that might receive expedited processing?

Non-emergency request

E. Purpose of the request (check one):

Elaborating and developing of the *"Inventory of the Representative list and list in need of urgent safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia"*

F. Scope of the project (check one):

National

G. Location of the project:

The project will be implemented all over the Mongolia including western, eastern, central and the Gobi regions.

H. Proposed implementing organization or body:

- Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO,
- Foundation for protection of historical and cultural heritage,
- Cultural heritage centre of Mongolia

I. Budget overview (in US dollars):

Amount requested from the fund: 25000 USD

State Party contribution: 10000USD

J. Time frame:

May 2009 – February 2011

K. Summary project description:

Mongolia is rich in various intangible cultural heritages (ICH) which was originated from the nomadic lifestyle of Mongolian people. After decline of the Mongolian Empire, Mongols frequently suffered from sustained downfall, warfare and internal conflicts before falling down to colonization by Manchurian Chin Dynasty for 200 years. Definitely, these historical instability may not have created a favorable conditions for prosperity of intellectual and aesthetics culture, particularly intangible cultural heritage among Mongols. In addition, 'stalinist purges' on national culture and intangible heritages during socialism have been replaced with 'globalization' as unstoppable breakthrough of modern mass culture and arts within the society so that they force diminish traditional culture and art and craftsmanship, also customs, rituals and festive events from existing lifestyle and further pushed them from their native birthplace and homeland.

Even though Mongols' intangible cultural heritage have evolved in such ways through increasingly challenging historical periods, yet managed to preserve main context, characteristics and values up to date so that they still play a major role within social life of Mongolian people. As a result of Mongolia opened itself to the world and embarked on a new path of new development since 1990, national pride has been revived and so as favourable circumstances created to safeguard and maintain traditional cultural heritage. Mongolia has ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. According to this Convention, our country has the responsibility to elaborate one or more inventories of the ICH in a manner geared to our own situation. Currently, the inventory work has not been officially done in an overall view. Previously, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO in the collaboration with relevant organizations has elaborated a list of Mongolian only the performing arts based on the "Data Base on traditional / folk performing arts in Asia and the Pacific" in 2000. But it's just one domain of ICH and needed to update. Regarding this project proposal, we intended to elaborate the *"Inventory of the Representative list and list in need of urgent safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia"*.

We certainly hope that the inventory will be the most significant, developing the National capacity to implement the Convention and the fundamental base to apply for inscription in the World Representative list of ICH and submit nomination dossier to UNESCO.

Application

1. Background and rationale

Oral and intangible cultural heritage practices of any nationality, ethnic groups and communities normally represent distinct and unique characteristics in regards to their residing geographical locations, landscapes, traditional industry, lifestyle patterns, language, culture and civilizations due to their historical contexts.

The Mongolian nationality and ethnicity surely represent one of them and its oral and intangible cultural heritage contains the unique characteristics. Indeed, Mongols have practiced pastoral nomadism for centuries within the vast steppe stretched throughout the Central Asia, and so created 'nomadic civilization' – one distinct civilization accepted worldwide. This residing landscape context has crafted and determined main features spirituality, and oral and intangible cultures practiced by Mongols.

Intangible cultural heritage practiced by Mongolian nationality has been derived from and among traditional livestock industry within the nature by roaming vast endless steppe, living and working both out and inside the Ger – the nomads' shelter – and thus carving simplicity and meaning of their life existence. Mongols' oral tradition and performing music and dance arts, customs, social practices and festive events are all closely linked with the nature and universe, while manifesting their numerous patterns and sounds. Listening to Mongolian traditional long songs and melody of Morin khuur (horse-headed violin) naturally reminds the vast endless steppe, whereas musical tunes of humii (throat-singing) and flutes immensely draw sounds and image of mountainous rivers in minds. Mongolians praise 'Father sky' and 'Mother land' in their praise songs, well-wishing songs, well-wishing poems and worshipping verses so that intangible cultural heritage, particularly such as praise songs, well-wishing songs, well-wishing poems, ballades, folklore arts, social practices, ceremonial and festive events, have formed a whole system of protecting the nature.

Due to intensive urbanization from pastoral nomadism and globalization in education development and technological breakthroughs prevailed in XX-XXI century, the subsequent civilization changes and emerging new lifestyle in the Mongolian society have been pushing traditional intangible culture heritage – which is closely linked with traditional lifestyle – from the daily life little by little.

Eventually, nowadays many kinds of cultural heritage have been disappeared, while still some more are in danger of disappearing. Particularly, in 1980s many features of the Mongolian traditional cultural heritage started to disappear drastically, as examples of many oral literature traditions have already indicated. Many people are aware that current situations of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage are raising serious concerns at all levels.

As a result of Mongolia opened itself to the world and embarked on a new path of new development since 1990, national pride has been revived and so as favourable circumstances created to safeguard and maintain traditional cultural heritage. Many

activities include organizing 'Naadam of Three-manly games' among Mongolians as well as restarting to practice social traditions, rituals and festive events, such as ceremonies worshipping sacred mountains and ovoo (shamanist shrine – a pile of stones at high peaks of mountains), setting up a new ger, wedding ceremony, developing traditional craftsmanship, making felt, milking mares and making airag (fermented mares' milk), imprinting horses, besides performing social and labour practices in traditional ways, promoting, teaching and learning to sing long songs and to play and make morin-khuur under initiatives and efforts of civil and professional associations, unions, foundations, ensembles, schools, training courses, enterprises, firms and companies.

Since the ratification of the 2003 UNESCO International Convention for the Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural heritage in 2005, Mongolia has been working actively to implement the Convention.

The fact the 'musical arts of morin khuur' and 'Mongolian traditional long songs' have been declared as 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' by UNESCO have indeed indicated that these unique heritage elements created by Mongol nomads deserve recognition of universal and outstanding values contributed by Mongols to worldwide cultural heritage treasury of human beings.

It was the key step to foster safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia, and motivation to prepare nominations for the next proclamations from a list of folk arts existing in Mongolia.

The "Inventory of the Representative list and list in need of urgent safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia" which will be developed as this project will play key role to enhance and sustain the above-mentioned purposes.

2. Objectives and expected results

The request for assistance from the Intangible Heritage Fund is aimed to implement the 2003 UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, elaborating an inventory of ICH within the Mongolian territory and separate inventory of ICH in need of urgent safeguarding in order to take relevant measures for survival. It is the main base to apply for inscription in the World Representative list of ICH and submit application materials to UNESCO.

The inventory of the representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mongolia is expected to ensure better visibility of the ICH and awareness of its significance and to encourage which respects cultural diversity, to revitalize those heritages at risk of disappearing, to transmit future generations as well as to raise public awareness the significance and value of the safeguarding ICH and threats to their authenticity and integrity.

ICH inventory is a first step acts as a strong foundation with potential to develop documentation of ICH further and serves to preserve and safeguard cultural heritage as well as providing a basic for stimulating future creativity. We hope this inventory will encourage future researchers to deepen the knowledge of Mongolian ICH, as well as being a useful reference for future generations. This inventory hopes to mark an encouraging step for bearers, artists, musicians, writers, teachers alike to instilling a stronger sense of pride in their dedication to teaching, creating and performing.

3. Activities

- register professional NGOs carrying out activities related on intangible cultural heritage and get them accredited by National authorities;
- to establish the working group including well qualified and specialized people, specialists who from relevant organizations including about accredited NGOs;
- to analyze the current situation based on reliable and validate data of ICH in Mongolia;
- to conduct the identification and selection activities, namely the questionnaire about the ICH and it's bearers nation wide and to receive the applications by them;
- to analyse and evaluate and assess the applications and questionnaire;
- to conduct the field expeditions in order to evaluate and identify relevant communities, groups and individuals who are bearing and holding the ICH and take their preliminary consent to the inventory;
- all the research works and surveys will be documented in a audio video recording, in a photo, and interviews and observations will be written in a note;
- to prepare the draft inventories;
- to organize the symposium inviting the external and internal expert and specialists in order to evaluate and finalize the draft inventories;

4. Project management and implementation

4.a. Community involvement:

The project objectives and benefits will be broadcasted by media nation wide and the people will be requested to submit the applications to identify the ICH and its bearers. Under this framework, the evaluation will be made by the working group and the field area will be identified on the basis of evaluation. In order to gather validate and creditable information data, a particular attention will be given to the local people, communities and groups wherein municipal authorities, cultural officers of the local governor's administration, heads of local cultural and enlighten centres and its staff, librarians will be the main respondents of this project.

4.b. Implementing organization:

- Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO
- Cultural Heritage Centre of Mongolia
- The foundation for protection historical and cultural heritage

4.c. Partners:

This project will be implemented with involvement of many relevant governmental organizations and NGOs, also professional, academic institutions such as Ministry of education, culture and science, Cultural heritage centre, Foundation for protection of historical and cultural heritage and others. Of course, main partners of the implementation of this project will be professional federations, associations for different intangible heritages. The comprehensive database will be developed in support with many institutions related such as, Mongolian association of Long song, Mongolian Association of Morin Khuur, Mongolian Association of Throat singing and others. Particularly, Institute of Language and literature of Academy of Sciences of Mongolia has a great source of information database related to the intangible cultural heritages, these valuable materials collected through years, also will be used during this project.

4.d. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation:

Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and other organizations concerned and partners will do monitoring during the implementation of the project. And the final activity and financial reports will be submitted within deadline by the contract. External evaluation and monitoring is useful to the success of the project. So, we would like to invite UNESCO experts to evaluate for the process of the inventory preparation.

5. Capacity-building, sustainability and long-term impacts of the project

5.a. Capacity-building:

Making inventory is the great contribution itself to enhance the National capacity building for the implementation of the UNESCO Convention for safeguarding of the Intangible cultural heritage. ICH inventory is a first step acting as a strong foundation with potential to develop documentation of ICH further, serving to preserve and safeguard cultural heritage as well as providing a basic for stimulating future creativity and fostering the revival efforts and the strength of an ICH that continues resiliently today. We hope this inventory will encourage future researchers to deepen the knowledge of Mongolian ICH, as well as being a useful reference for future generations.

5.b. Sustainability:

As globalization expands, there is a growing necessity to preserve and pass down our priceless culture to future generations. The inventories will contribute for inheriting the ICH to the next generation, and raising public awareness not only now but also in the future. It will last constantly to identify and revitalize the ICH of Mongolia and enhance the young people's knowledge and appreciation upon the inventories.

5.c. Multiplier effects:

The Government of Mongolia will contribute a total amount of 10000 USD in order to support the following activities and provide logistical arrangements.

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- to analyze the current situation based on reliable and validate data of ICH in Mongolia;
- To conduct the field expeditions in order to evaluate and identify relevant communities, groups and individuals who are bearing and holding the ICH and take their preliminary consent to the inventory;

6. Timetable and budget

No	Items	Timeframe	Budget (USD)	
			Contribution from the Government of Mongolia	Assistance from the Intangible Heritage Fund
1	register professional NGOs carrying out activities related on intangible cultural heritage and get them accredited by National authorities;	May 2009	1000	
2	to establish the working group including well qualified and specialized people, specialists who are from relevant organizations including above mentioned accredited NGOs;	May 2009		
3	to analyze the current situation based on reliable and validate data of ICH in Mongolia;	May –July 2009	5000	
4	to conduct the identification and selection activities, namely the questionnaire about the ICH and it's bearers nation wide and to receive the applications from them;	July – Nov 2009		5000
5	to analyse and evaluate and assess the applications and questionnaire;	Nov 2009-April 2010		2000
6	to conduct the field expeditions in order to evaluate and identify relevant communities, groups and individuals who are bearing and holding the ICH and take their preliminary consent to the inventory;	April 2010 – Sep 2010	4000	4000
7	all the research works and surveys will be documented in a audio video recording, in a photo, and interviews and observations will be written in a note and the draft inventories will be prepared;	Sep 2010-Nov. 2010		6000
8	to organize the symposium inviting the	Dec 2010		8000

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external and internal expert and specialists in order to evaluate and finalize the draft inventories;			
Total amount		10000	25000

7. Contact information

7.a. Submitting State Party: Mongolia

7.b. Contact person for correspondence:

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7.c. Organization or body responsible for implementation:

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8. Signature

YO.OTGONBAYAR,



MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND SCIENCE OF
MONGOLIA

CHAIRMAN OF MONGOLIAN NATIONAL
COMMISSIN FOR UNESCO