



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

### FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): 1

Project title:	Intangible Cultural Heritage as a basis for resilience, reconciliation and the construction of peace environments in Colombia's Post-Agreements
Time frame:	Starting date: 18/07/2018      Completion date: 01/06/2020
Budget:	Total: US\$172060 <i>Including:</i> Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$99400 State Party contribution: US\$51646 Other contributions: US\$21014
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	Universidad del Norte
Contact person:	Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms Family name: Alvarez Given name: Andrea Institution/position: Universidad del Norte Address: Km 5 Vía Puerto Colombia Telephone number: (57) (5) 3509509 E-mail address: acalvarez@uninorte.edu.co
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	Ministry of Culture
Implementing partners:	Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR for its acronym in Spanish)

## 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 peace agreement signed by the government of Colombia and the FARC-EP at the end of 2016 represented a de-escalation of the internal armed conflict, since parties previously confronted were willing to seek a constructive solution to the conflict. In this sense, this project on “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Memory as the basis for Resilience, Reconciliation and the Construction of Peace Environments in the post-agreement times” was formulated in accordance with point III of the agreement on the End of the Conflict, because its early implementation meant the transition from armed to civilian life, from a stable and lasting peace approach. It is fundamental to offer tools to build peaceful environments that contribute to social reconciliation, avoid the repetition of conflicts, and contribute to reintegration in the territories where the Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR in Spanish) were installed.

In this framework, one of the main challenges has been the creation of projects for the personal and community life of former combatants, as well as their social interaction with the people of the area. In this context, within the scenario of the transition to the ETCR of Ponedores, the population expressed their need to boost the local culture to promote development, the repair in the post agreement, and to promote community work as part of the reintegration in the region.

Conflict in the region has affected cultural practices, local knowledge, and community processes. It is essential to help rebuild the social structure of the territory as a reparation and reconciliation measure, through culture as a tool of dialogue and constructive transformation of the conflict.

In this sense, the early implementation of the peace agreement with a territorial approach allows recovering practices that belong to the local culture and knowledge, through its visibility and significance in the territory. Likewise, former combatants, since they are part of a collectivity with their own knowledge, have experienced the transformation of their cultural practices during their reincorporation into civilian life, which has caused that some knowledge disappear and some practices are at risk of being lost. As is the case, for example, with the forms of social and community organization, the traditions linked to peasant life, the use of traditional medicine, as well as the promotion of values associated with such practices, such as solidarity and reciprocity. Additionally, cultural interaction with the Conejo civil community -that surrounds the ETCR, promotes the creation of new practices, strengthening others, and new social agreements are being created.

Given the reasons mentioned above, the need for the project is presented as an emergency measure, due to several contextual factors that affected the community in the territory and its immaterial cultural patrimony (PCI in Spanish), such as: the political instability of the country affecting the implementation of the peace agreement; the lack of guarantees of physical security of former combatants, their families and social leaders; the latent risk that ex-combatants consider being a criminal as part of their new life project because they cannot find other options in the reintegration process; the risk that after abandoning arms, their collective image as victim-victimizer of war times is reinforced; the precarious implementation of peace agreements; and that the Conejo community is fearful of the stigma inherent to the presence of the ETCR in their area.

Given this scenario, the joint work between the international community, official institutions,

the academy, communities affected by the conflict and former combatants, it is highly relevant for peace-building in territories such as Conejo. Through participation and action initiatives, which articulate the past and the present and lay the foundation of spaces to rebuild the social structure, we contribute to reconciliation and dialogue. Not only to recognize the different levels and types of relationships that have existed throughout the conflict and during the implementation of the agreements between the communities; but as a pilot project that can offer inputs to create a methodology that can be replicated in different areas where other ETCRs are located, as well as in other countries in post-conflict processes. In fact, this project has shown that through the intangible cultural heritage (PCI) and the memory, changes in polarization concepts can be achieved, as well as the emergence of initiatives that demonstrate the resilience of communities.

Within this context of the post-agreement, the strengthening of the PCI and the memory is a tool to facilitate reconciliation, resilience, and the promotion of new ways for coexistence and community integration. In this regard, the needs that the project seeks to address, in addition to the emergency measure, are linked to the PCI capacities strengthening strategy, while the creation of inventories is linked to the conceptual and methodological approach of the memory and heritage line created by the Ministry's PCI group. The purpose of this line is to generate reflection processes aimed at safeguarding the PCI and strengthening the collective memory, and then rebuild the social structure, reconciliation and resilience, and build peaceful environments.

The gaps addressed in this area were:

- The reconfiguration of relations between the Conejo civil community and the former combatants that arrived at the ETCR Pandores.
- Dialogue around cultural, social, and productive activities among the inhabitants of the ETCR Pandores and the civilian population of Conejo.
- Training cultural and reflection managers of the PCI and memory in the cultural managers of Conejo and the ETCR in the territory.
- The Reconstruction of the social structure of communities affected by the armed conflict, through the strengthening of joint cultural processes, the construction of collective memory, and the creation of new joint practices.

### **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*

1. Promote education processes that strengthen the PCI management capacity among the cultural managers of the territory, through the implementation of the PCI capacity strengthening strategy: The participants were: a) trained in PCI; b) trained in research techniques; and c) guided in the formulation of two research-action projects on "Inventory of manifestations of the intangible cultural heritage (PCI) of the Conejo community and ETCR Pandores in the post-agreement in 2019", and "Meeting of stories of Conejo- Fariana communities on socio-cultural dynamics before and after the peace agreements to build collective memories".

2. Strengthen the identification, research and documentation abilities of project participants through the preparation of a participation inventory that identifies cultural manifestations and practices associated with the PCI in the territory and promotes measures for its promotion, management, and safeguarding. Participants made an inventory of PCI demonstrations

implementing the methodology of UNESCO and the Colombian Ministry of Culture.

3. Develop a collective memory construction initiative related to the way in which the Conejo territory has been socially and historically constructed and the role of the PCI in this construction: The first four activities with the participants were focused on this objective. Participants made an inventory of PCI demonstrations implementing the methodology of UNESCO and the Colombian Ministry of Culture.

4. Make the narrative forms of the participating community visible, fostering their self-representation abilities through audiovisual languages. The narratives of the people were explored through the exercise of photography, writing, and oral narratives of the participants, whose objective results were: nine (9) podcasts, six (6) videos of experiences, one (1) documentary, and one (1) book.

5. Organize an artistic/cultural exhibition with the results of the process in the town of Conejo where former FARC combatants and inhabitants of the community work together. In order to make the results of the Project visible to the general community of Conejo, ETCR Pondores and Fonseca, a socialization day of the research was held by the participants through artistic exhibitions that exposed the fields and the manifestations of the PCI and Memory identified and prioritized by the project participants. Discussions were also held with local and national institutions to publicize the results of the project.

6. Promote the creation of social agreements for coexistence between former combatants and the inhabitants of Conejo through the generation of meeting spaces and the creation of coexistence agreements. The different activities associated with the project promoted agreements and commitments between the two communities (ETCR and Conejo) that are reflected in cultural processes that are currently in force on common objectives such as: tourism initiatives, a heritage watch project, joint work to having a community museum in the area, and the intervention of the Conejo youth collective (ASOJUPAC) with ETCR children on the use of free time.

### **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*

Phase I. This phase was an enlistment and call where methodological routes, contracts, and schedule were defined. It was carried out through the following activities:

- Meeting with representatives of Uninorte, the Ministry of Culture and the coordination of ETCR to discuss the administrative processes, the schedule, and the registration process.
- Meeting in Conejo with different organizations and social groups for the socialization of the project and the opening of the call for registration.
- Socialization meeting of the project in Pondores with the communication and tourism team of the ETCR, to identify those interested in participating and commitments were made to participate.

- Meeting at the Conejo High School and School to motivate students to participate and calls with their parents.
- Meetings with the librarian to review and collect registrations.
- PCI training for memory tutors and project coordinators in Bogotá by the Ministry of Culture, presentation of the Memory and PCI guidelines, and discussion of potential methodological routes for the development of the workshops of the phase II.
- Meeting with the legal representative of Cooperativa COOMPAZCOL, about the hiring process.
- Presentation of the project in the General Meeting of the ETCR of Pongores.
- Meeting with the National Reintegration Agency to inform about the project.
- Progress in hiring processes and definition of services to be hired from COOMPAZCOL cooperative.

Phase II. In this phase, PCI training strategies were built from active participation, through 6 workshops on:

- Presentation and awareness about the concepts of memory and PCI. Project participants introduced each other, socializing personal experiences in the territory.
- Raise awareness on PCI fields, and qualitative and quantitative research techniques.
- Formulation of research projects and delivery of research and field research incentives.
- Socialization, systematization, and analysis of the results from researches. Internal socialization of the project results and analysis of the results from researches based on the categories of resilience, reconciliation, and construction of environments for peace. It was agreed that these categories will be the focal points to guide the chapters of the publication after the first chapter regarding the context of territory and community.
- Writing. During the first session, creative writing activities related to the elaboration of contents of the publication for dissemination of project results, through the creation of editorial committees, were carried out. The second session encompassed the return of contents that will be part of the chapters of the publication for accreditation of participants and start the editing process.
- Socialization of the results from researches. Various strategic stakeholders of the territory participated, including participants/interviewees during the field research.

At the same time, internal methodological and administrative evaluation activities and workshops were held:

- Meetings between representatives of Uninorte, project coordination, ETCR, Ministry of Culture, as well as PCI and Memory tutors were held in order to discuss administrative, academic, and methodological aspects at different moments of Stage II.
- Review session regarding projects between the methodological consultant of Uninorte and the Ministry of Culture's consultant.
- Meeting with local, regional, national, and international institutions with an impact on the territory to create alliances to guarantee process sustainability.
- Internal socialization session of Phase II results.
- Consolidation of the technical and financial report of this stage.

Phase III: From research to content creation: Elaboration of audiovisual products or informative pieces. According to this phase, the following activities were carried out:

- Workshops and face-to-face consultancies led by expert tutors in audiovisual content, to provide conceptual and technical tools that would translate the contents of the inventory and memory work into an audiovisual language and leave the installed capacity in the territory. The topics were: sound production, multimedia content, video editing through face-to-face workshops. Definition of the products to be translated in audiovisual languages and construction of their script.
- The products were socialized in a community day open to the public.
- Finally, a workshop led by two specialists in community museums was held with the Work Team.
- Consolidation of the technical and financial report of this stage.

Phase IV: Social agreements in the territory and closure of the process. In order to generate social agreements in the territory and disseminate the results of the process, the following activities were carried out:

- Artistic-cultural exhibition in the village of Conejo, where the manifestations identified and prioritized by the communities in the inventory were socialized, as well as the results of the memory and heritage process. This is the closing of the project.
- Consolidation of the technical and financial report of this stage.

Phase V: Agreements for content circulation. In order to explore sustainability strategies of initiatives conceived within the project, the following activities were carried out:

- Working table with local and regional institutions competent in the implementation of the peace agreement in general and in the reincorporation of ex-combatants in particular.
- Meeting with representatives of the UN Observation Mission to socialize the results and request their accompaniment in the upcoming activities.
- Socialization of the project with competent national institutions in the implementation of the peace agreement in general and in the reincorporation of ex-combatants in particular in order to make visible the achievements and identify possible allies in the continuity of cultural initiatives.

Phase VI: Delivery of final report with the following documents:

- Elaboration of the PCI Methodological Route in Post-agreement scenarios with the following contents: a) Background of the work on the PCI and Report, b) Methodology and Methodological Tools implemented, c) Recommendation for replication in post-agreement contexts, d) Recommendations for the articulation of the Resilience, Reconciliation and the Construction of Peace Environments, and e) Future safeguard strategies for the identified protests.
- Institutional Roadmap Document.
- Document for book of Dissemination of results entitled "Conejo. Territorio de Mil Colores. Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial y Memoria en el Postacuerdo" [Conejo. The land of one thousand colors. Intangible Cultural Heritage and Memory in the Post-Agreement]
- Preparation of final financial and technical report.

## Unexpected events in project development and measures implemented

- In December, the community is usually engaged in traditional family activities at the end of the year. Then, in March 2019, an extension of the project was requested to culminate on 30 November of that same year.
- Items for guidance from academic and methodological consultants of Uninorte were not enough to give a permanent support to the process. But Uninorte managed an additional resource to fulfill this commitment.
- The participatory development of community research projects focused on contents thereof, instead of the detailed elaboration of a budget. Then, the budgets were adjusted and it was agreed that the COMPAZCOL cooperative would manage the project items.

## Role of the implementation agency and other peer agencies

During all stages of the project, Uninorte has guaranteed project implementation as per provisions of the agreement, receiving the support of the Ministry of Culture, both in administrative aspects and the academic and methodological process. It is highlighted that both the role of the Ministry and Uninorte in the territory were essential, since the project was developed in a circumstantial and changing context, where it was necessary to make continuous evaluations.

Likewise, based on needs felt and expressed by the participants of the Conejo community and by representatives of the ETCR Pondoires, Uninorte carried out the following actions:

- Training on Constitutional Actions with a lawyer workshop to advise inhabitants and leaders of the ETCR and the communities of the three areas that would eventually be affected by the mining project.
- Consultancies with the Public Law and Litigation Group for processing any constitutional action on behalf of the right of education of children and adolescents with no access to education of the ETCR and from adjacent rural zones.
- Two sessions on post-agreement pedagogy with former combatants, students, and teachers for contextualizing the general public on complexities of the reincorporation process of the Farc-Ep on a local context: ETCR Pondoires case.
- A balance on Challenges of Reincorporation at Uninorte where the contributions of the project to social reincorporation were presented.
- A forum with candidates for the Mayor's Office of Fonseca on Proposals for the construction of peace

## 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*

The criteria used to involve the community were:

- Direct participation of 40 people representing various genres from the Conejo Community and the Pondoires ETCR.
- Indirect participation of people from the Township of Conejo, the ETCR of

Pondores, the Municipality of Fonseca, representatives of local, regional and national institutions competent in the implementation of the peace agreement in general and the reincorporation in particular.

Direct Participation The mechanisms implemented for the call were the following:

1. - Meeting with different stakeholders representing Conejo organizations to socialize the general objective of the project, discuss concerns, share expectations and open the call for registration for the project.
2. - Identification of impact cultural promotion scenarios on Conejo's community, such as the rural public library of Conejo, which has been a finalist of the National Public Libraries Award; a community entrepreneurship initiative related to rural tourism and the association of peaceful youths of Conejo.
3. Identification of cultural promotion scenarios of impact on Pondores community and leaders call in these scenarios (communication and tourism groups of ETCR).
4. - Open call in Conejo community through "voice-to-voice" dynamic.

Once the call was completed, it began with the registration of the participants, who represented various interests and generational groups, as can be seen below:

Direct beneficiaries/Participants from Conejo community

- Adult and young men and women who are representative of the group: friends of the rural public library of Conejo.
- Young people from the association of peaceful youths from Conejo.
- Community representative of a surrounding township (Corralejas).
- Community representatives of an adjacent municipality (Villa Nueva).
- Representative of an Afro-Colombian collective.
- Conejo schoolgirls.
- Representatives of the civil society.

Direct beneficiaries/participants of Pondores ETC community:

- Women of the communication team.
- A man with a disability.
- Men and women of the tourism team.
- Two adolescents.
- A representative of the Community Action Committee.
- Women and a young woman of the cooperative.

Indirect Participation. During the different phases of the project, members of the following groups and organizations participated:

- Women from the Coffee Association.
- Conejo's Community Action Committee.



- ETCR Community Action Committee.
- Representative of the Conejo's ecological collectors' association.
- UN monitoring mission for the implementation of peace agreements in the territory.
- Agency for the Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN)
- Corpoguajira.

### 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 empowerment of the participants was evident throughout the process, because around the peaceful coexistence and the identification of common objectives, a sense of community was created that generated reflection on the present and on the future in terms of the scope of a sustainable peace. In this sense, the following initiatives have emerged to reinforce and foster cultural practices around the territory:

- The Conejo recovery as the agricultural reserve as when there was a farmers' market.
- The recovery of cultural events that have been lost, such as carnival and Fariana music.
- Ecotourism activities of Serranía del Perijá as a key aspect for culture and peace.
- The reactivation of the Coffee Festival as scenario for reconciliation, which has been a main axis for Conejo growth.
- A cultural center with a community museum in Conejo.
- A medicinal herb garden that integrates ancestral knowledge both in Conejo community and ETCR community.
- Strengthening of the House of Memory in ETCR.

Some strategies that guarantee the sustainability of the project to date are:

- A proposal for the safeguarding of the PCI of Pondoires and Conejo, presented by monitors of the heritage of both communities. We participated in a call from CRESPIAL and although it was not selected, it is a proposal that can be presented in other calls.
- An initiative of the Conejo Peaceful Youth Collective (ASOJUPAC) that is currently being carried out, to promote the good use of free time with ETCR children in Pondoires.

- Holding workshops to strengthen ties and build trust between former guerrilla members and residents of Conejo, led by the ARN.
- Articulation of coexistence and trust processes generated in the project with an initiative to reduce stigmatization led by the ARN. This project is starting with young people from Conejo and ETCR.
- Formation of a group of Heritage Monitors.
- Proposal to reactivate the Coffee Festival as an action to safeguard the knowledge associated with the production of coffee in the Serranía del Perijá.
- Articulation with the Municipal Development Plan for the inclusion of the community museum as an action of the current local government.

### 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*

- The work with members of cultural collectives have strengthened participants' skills as cultural managers regarding PCI.
- The PCI and Memory link by means of a participatory methodology has contributed to the identification of resilience practices around different acts of violence and historical moments.
- The participation of the two communities around the safeguarding of the PCI in the post-agreement, created bases for social reconciliation because an integrating category of "us" was configured that activated shared values, beliefs, and emotions, and created new social agreements by making joint decisions at different moments of the project.
- The participatory action-research methodology has contributed to the construction of peaceful environments by: 1) increase of the understanding regarding the complexity of microsocial dynamics around PCI and Memory; 2) hearing and joint work activities have facilitated tolerance, solidarity, and a change of imaginaries that contribute to improve coexistence; 3) discuss exercises have strengthened the participatory communication and the generation of social agreements within the project development framework; 4) socialization of project results favors project adoption; and 5) participation of representatives from different collectives have allowed the recognition of cultural and ethnic diversity.
- The implementation of the projects reflected needs on: 1) doing training in administrative matters, 2) carrying out technical and methodological support during the implementation of the projects, 3) formulating research projects in a transversal way to the first workshops, 4) emphasizing the importance of the quality of data to be collected, and 5) include training on the management of the equipment delivered to the community for the collection of information.
- The hiring of the COOMPAZCOL cooperative facilitated logistical aspects of the project because it is located in the area, and it was also an opportunity to strengthen an initiative originating within the framework of the peace agreement.

For future similar projects, the following recommendations are made:

- That the call and selection of the participants is in two months to make more diffusion and guarantee a greater number of nominated people, greater diversity of social organizations. It is also proposed that they go through an interview filter where they express their motivation and commitment.
- That the local population (indirect beneficiaries) participating in the work planning, implementation and evaluation processes, not only the direct participants, in this way, can support the process in the different phases of the project and not only at a particular moment.
- That the phases do not develop in linear but interlocking ways.
- That the notion of participation is not associated with the mere expression of opinion, but with the appropriation of tools developed throughout the project and their application in meeting the objectives.
- That the workshops are from the region and that they remain throughout the implementation of the route and in the accompaniment of the different phases of the process, because it fosters trust among the participants and guarantees comprehensive work, as well as generating an installed capacity in the territory.
- That the work schedule is two years for the implementation of the PCI route articulated to the construction of environments of peace to account for the process and social transformation.
- Include modules on resilience, social reconciliation, education for conflict, and education for peace.
- Include training on equipment management that the community will use to develop the project's objectives.
- In cases where the settlement of former combatants requires transportation to reach the area where civil society lives, include it in the general budget to guarantee assistance to all activities.
- For the execution of the projects formulated and carried out by the participants, it is suggested that none should administer economic resources, nor should it be contemplated that they receive remuneration for carrying out any activity related to the development of the project's objectives.
- In the event that there is an advisory agency for the project other than the implementing agency, the terms of reference of form and substance of the products to be delivered and endorsed by the advisory agency must be previously stipulated in a clear and detailed manner.
- Contemplate a longer time for learning audiovisual languages and, in general, of the proposed phases.

## **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)*

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

Name: Diana Rico Revelo

Title: Academic Advisor

Date: 20/08/2020

Signature: *Diana C. Rico R*