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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): Kingdom of Eswatini

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| Project title: | DEVELOPMENT OF AN INVENTORY OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE (ICH) FOR SHISELWENI REGION IN ESWATINI |
| Time frame: | Starting date: 01/10/2019 Completion date: 22/04/2022 |
| Budget: | Total: US\$61,433.22 <i>Including:</i> Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$ 58,342.00 State Party contribution: US\$3 119.07 Other contributions: US\$ |
| Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office): | Eswatini National Trust Commission |
| Contact person: | Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms Family name: Nkambule Given name: Temahlubi D. Institution/position: Focal Point Address: P.O. BOX 100 Lobamba Telephone number: +268 76121311/78086074 E-mail address: temahlubin@gmail.com |
| Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project): | Eswatini National Trust Commission |
| Implementing partners: | Eswatini National Trust Commission |

two experts in community-based inventorying of ICH. For the effective implementation, the project engaged the services of a regional ICH expert Dr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi, who ensured the delivery of the training component of the project.

Apart from the two local experts and the regional trainer, the project engaged two youths who were trained in 2014. They were trained during the workshop on Training of Trainers, which was held in Magadzavane, Lubombo Region within the framework of the project on “Strengthening Sub-Regional Cooperation and National Capacities in Seven Southern African Countries for the Implementing the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of ICH”. In total 16 community members were capacitated in the community-based inventorying of ICH under this project. From the Shiselweni Region four chiefdoms were trained, each chiefdom forwarded four participants for training. In addition, there were 8 members from the National ICH Committee and 1 official from NATCOM who participated in the exercise, giving 25 participants.

The choice of the chiefdoms where this project was implemented was selected by the local Chiefs themselves after a meeting which was held at the Shiselweni Regional Administrator’s offices. Article 15 of the 2003 Convention states that each State Party shall endeavor to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management. Local leaders (Chiefs) and communities were involved in the selection of participants, custodians and practitioners to undergo inventory exercise. The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage divides the ICH elements into five main domains, namely: Oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning the nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship. The inventorying and assessment of ICH elements in Shiselweni Region reflected on all these five domains.

Objectives and results attained

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

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

The overall objectives were met. Firstly, awareness was raised among various stakeholders about the 2003 Convention and the importance of ICH in the Shiselweni region. The meeting attracted diverse stakeholders which included custodians, practitioners, Bearers, media houses, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Education and Training, The Ministry of Tinkhundla, Administration and Development as well as, local traditional authorities, politicians, youth, elderly not only from the region but also from other parts of the country. The community members were capacitated to ensure sustainability of the project; therefore they will be able to continue inventorying ICH elements beyond this project, with minimal assistance from the implementing institution being the ENTC and NICHC.

The NICHC through the Regional Administrator's office managed to sensitize other chiefs besides those who were selected for inventorying in this project. Communities in Shiselweni Region were

Background

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

Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words

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

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

Other inventories were conducted in 2012 and 2014 in the Lubombo and Manzini Regions with support from the Flanders Government through UNESCO. Therefore, this project allowed inventorying of ICH elements in other areas such as Shiselweni Region, which was not covered during the previous projects.

Shiselweni is one of the regions in the country facing serious challenges in as far as the safeguarding of Swati ICH is concerned. Therefore, this project has contributed to the effort by Government in mobilizing communities and raising awareness on the importance of ICH and how this ICH can be safeguarded for future generations. Such effort helped in revitalizing some ICH elements that are under threats of disappearing as well as maintain and enhancing those that are currently viable. The Eswatini National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NICHHC), under the supervision of national ICH experts, implemented this project. The following people were involved: Ms. Rosemary Andrade-Dlamini (retired) and Ms. Temahlubi Dudu Nkambule who both work for ENTC. UNESCO trained the

sensitized about the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the ICH, measures and mechanisms for safeguarding, ICH and the role of ICH in the society. The media especially the Eswatini Television Authority attended during opening and during the fieldwork exercise, covered and aired the ICH workshop activities during prime time (on their news broadcast between 7pm and 8pm) and a repeat on Saturday morning between 6am and 9 am. Two (2) Members of Parliament attended the closing ceremony of the Training workshop from the identified chiefdoms; they showed an interest and pledged their support on implementing the Convention.

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

During the training workshop, three ICH elements were documented in nearby communities with the assistance of the Regional Mentor and the NICHC. In the process of inventorying these elements, awareness was further raised to the communities since community meetings were held in the Chief's kraal (Umphakatsi) to sensitize the people on ICH before the actual exercise. The equipment purchased for the project assisted a lot in covering the whole workshop, inventorying and documentation ICH elements during fieldwork. In total fifty-two (52) ICH Elements were collected during the fieldwork exercise and were validated during the verification workshop held down Shiselweni.

Another main objective of the workshop was to build capacity amongst the people of the Shiselweni Region in safeguarding ICH. A total of 16 participants from the communities around Shiselweni were capacitated. Gender was observed in the selection of participants : 8 males and 8 females were trained. From the 16 participants 12 of them were the youth who are active in their chiefdoms and have the capacity to disseminate information about ICH which will ensure sustainability of awareness raising about the 2003 Convention.

Description of project implementation

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

Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words

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

Date: 03-09-2020

Venue: ENTC Conference room

The NICHC through the Eswatini National Trust Commission as an implementing organization conducted a one-day (03-09-2020) to discuss the project's plan of action. The main output from this

meeting was a clearly laid down plan of action of the project activities. The national committee delegated a 9-member team from the committee to lead in the whole Shiselweni project of ICH. The result of this meeting was a clearly laid down plan of action which indicated timelines and activities to be carried out on this project. Workshop dates, stakeholder identification and community visit dates were set, and a plan of action drawn.

2. Meeting of stakeholders

Date: 03-01-2020 &11-09-2020

Venue: Shiselweni Region

Eswatini protocol dictates that if there is an activity that is going to take place in any region, the Regional Administrator should be informed prior about it. Therefore, the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee held a meeting with the Regional Administrator (RA), his Officials and local traditional authorities, where the project was explained. The RA warmly welcomed the project and the desired outcome of the NICHC, which was permission to carry out the project in the region. During the meeting in the RA offices, the 2003 Convention and the project was explained which led to the awareness on the Convention and appreciation by local traditional authorities and politicians.

Another major output from the meeting in the RA's offices was the identification of chiefdoms that the project will cover. These chiefdoms were Qomintaba, Magele, Zombodze Emuva and Mashobeni South.

Another meeting was held with the local traditional authorities in the Shiselweni region to brief them about the project and the 2003 Convention. The main output for the meeting was granting of consent by Local traditional authorities and practitioners. Elements that were to be documented during the workshop were identified. Community members to participate in the workshop were also identified and their names were given to the NICHC by the Local traditional authorities.

3. Purchase of equipment

Three sets of equipment were purchased:

- Three (3) Acer laptops
- Three (3) Telefunken video recorders
- Three (3) canon still cameras
- Three (3) HP laptops
- Cables and memory cards for the equipment

4. Workshop: Training on Community-based Inventoring (10days)

Dates : 03-09-2020-11-09-2020

Venue: King Sobhuza,s Memorial and Casino Royale-Nhlangano

Training on community-based inventoring of ICH was carried out by the ICH Regional Expert Dr. Lovemore Mazibuko from Malawi and assisted by the NICHC. In total, 25 participants comprising of 16 community members and 9 NICHC members and the National Commission for UNESCO were trained. The training took place in Shiselweni Region, at Casino Royale for 9 days. Participants were capacitated on conducting ICH inventory and documentation including using relevant equipment.

The training was split into two parts: theory and practical sessions. The first 6 days were dedicated to theory while the last 3 days was for practical (fieldwork) designed to provide participants with hands-on experience on ICH inventory exercise. Equipment to carry out the exercise was purchased, and participants were given necessary skills in using the equipment during the workshop. Workshop evaluation was done collectively by the participants at the end of the workshop. A structured questionnaire was administered to participants to solicit views from them on how they think the training had progressed and how they benefited from it.

During the opening session of the workshop, speeches were delivered by different Government Officials including the national commission for UNESCO, ENTC and Local Traditional Authorities.

5. Fieldwork

Dates:21/07/2021 Magele

:22/07/2021 Mashobeni

:07-10/04/2022 Mashobeni and Zombodze Emuva

Fieldwork was conducted in three chiefdoms, namely Zombodze Emuva, Mashobeni and Magele. A total of 53 elements were inventoried. The first field was conducted during the training workshop where the Zombodze Emuva community was involved. During this fieldwork three (3) elements were inventoried with the assistance of the electorate as part of their training exercise.

During the fieldwork exercise at least forty-seven (47) elements were inventoried from the three chiefdoms named above. Initially, there were four chiefdoms which were earmarked for the fieldwork exercise, however, due to unforeseen civil unrest in the country, the Qomintaba chiefdom was burned down along with the purchased equipment. This resulted in focusing on three chiefdoms, people feared for their lives and were afraid to contribute to the project. The withdrawal of the Qomintaba chiefdom resulted in not being able to meet the target of expected number of elements as anticipated in the initial project plan.

6. Validation workshop(dates)

Dates: 11-04-2022

Venue: Shiselweni Casino Royale Hotel.

The three chiefdoms, which were actively involved in the project, were invited to validate the draft project report which was drafted by the NICHC. Represented on the workshop were Local Traditional authorities from the three chiefdoms, practitioners, custodians, media, NATCOM, ENTC, eMbangweni Royal Residence and Community members that were trained. The communities' members presented the report with the assistance of the NICHC Secretariat.

The Community embraced the report as a true reflection of intangible Cultural heritage present in their territory. They pleaded with UNESCO and ENTC to continue assisting the region in safeguarding ICH in the following areas:

- By introducing ICH in the school curricula.
- By advocating the gospel of ICH in local community meetings, so to pass the information to next generations,
- Publish books on ICH for all levels

- Publish online documentaries on ICH
- Use of Social media platforms to educate on ICH. e. g Comedy or drama, as well as culture competitions
- Have a weekly column on print media on ICH.

CHALLENGES

Civil unrest : The country underwent an unexpected civil unrest, where government and traditional structures were targeted for arson and demolishing, this resulted in one chiefdom (Qomintaba chiefdom) which was participating in the project being burnt down together with the equipment used for the project (1 laptop, 1 Printer, 1 still camera, one video recorder as well as stationary and extension cables). The burning of the Qomintaba Chiefdom resulted in not being able to meet the targeted number of elements to be inventoried under this project.

COVID 19 Pandemic: Covid-19 happened which halted our operations as it was impossible to have direct contact with practitioners and lockdown regulations were affected, which enforced a curfew on the nation at large.

Natural Disaster : The kingdom of Eswatini received heavy rains during the time of pursuing this project. This therefore made travelling to be difficult resulting to less elements inventoried.

Committee members' resignation : Some community members who were trained on inventorying elements in the region pulled out from the project due to a number of reasons, for example job opportunities and other personal reasons.

MITIGATION MEASURES

To overcome the above challenges, the following mitigation measures were implemented:

Civil unrest and Covid-19

The NICHC held a meeting at the Nhlngano Casino Royale with the focal points from the three (3) participating chiefdoms to discuss a way forward. It was agreed that inventorying should continue despite the civil unrest and the Covid-19 pandemic. The focal points from the three chiefdoms were to lead the inventorying process in events where the NICHC could not travel. A plan was drafted on how the remaining two sets of equipment will be used effectively in the three chiefdoms. Personal protective equipment for the NICHC, community members and practitioners were purchased. To ensure that the communities effectively work on the inventorying exercise some NICHC members joined them.

Heavy rains: Due to bad and slippery roads, three (3) 4x4 cars were hired and used to transport community and ICH members while doing the inventory in their communities.

Resignation of committee members: NICHC members joined the remaining members in the communities to ensure that inventorying continues. New community members were identified to beef up the team.

Request and recommendation to UNESCO : We therefore, request that the budget allocated for the one chiefdom (Qomintaba) which was burnt down together with equipment to remain in the country as the situation now is normalizing. We requested to use the remaining funds in the budget to purchase the burnt equipment and conduct inventory in the Qomintaba chiefdom. To ensure safety of the equipment the Focal Point will be responsible for its safekeeping and give to the

community when they go out to do inventory. In the inventory, the trained community members would be used to collect elements from this chiefdom with the assistance of the NICHC members responsible for the region. The Focal Point will work with them full time.

Community involvement

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

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

In 2015 a request was sent to the ENTC by the local traditional authorities from 4 Chiefdoms in the Shiselweni Region requesting if it could fund a project to document ICH elements in their area. This was after they had learnt that similar projects had been conducted in some communities in Malindza and Mhlumeni in 2010 and 2014, respectively. They too wanted to have a project of their own seeing that ICH was lost in the region due to several factors. In June 2015, officials from ENTC had a meeting with the Regional Administrator of Shiselweni Region and the Chiefs in order to learn more about their request. Another follow-up meeting was held at the Regional Administrator's Office on 19th February 2016. During this meeting, it was collectively agreed that a project be developed and submitted to UNESCO to document ICH elements covering all the 4 chiefdoms of the Shiselweni Region.

The selection of the 16 community members trained in the community-based inventory was done by the local traditional authorities in consultation with the practitioners and local councils in their communities. The Local Traditional authorities' system through the Tinkhundla (a form of local governance) were given the freedom to choose participants in their communities whom they thought were fit for the project. The selection of practitioners responsible for the elements were chosen by the local traditional authorities who are the custodians of culture in their respective areas.

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

Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

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

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

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

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

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

The implementing agency which is the Eswatini National Trust Commission appointed Ms. Temahlubi Nkambule as the Focal Point and she is assisted by Ms. Gcebile Mavuso and the NICHC. These are responsible for liaising with local authorities and community members in the four regions of country on ICH in ensuring that ICH projects are carried out even after the completion of the current project.

The ENTC has reviewed its Act (SNTC of 1972 ammended 1973) governing heritage conservation to include ICH matters. This means that when the ENTC submit a budget of its activities to the Government it will include a budget on ICH. The Director of Cultural Heritage was tasked with ensuring that ICH activities are carried out and reports are submitted to her office on all work done every quarter. The Director is also responsible for ensuring that reports to UNESCO are submitted on time and all funds donated are accounted for. During the official opening and closing of the workshop the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Officials, Permanent Secretary, The Shiselweni Regional Administrator and Officials from Mbangweni Royal Residence, local traditional authorities from the Shiselweni region pledged support for the project and opened up working spaces for the community members who will mane ICH in the region in the future. They also pledged to continue the inventorying of ICH elements, however they requested support and assistance from UNESCO. To further raise awareness on the 2003 Convention, Local Traditional Authorities pledged to give slots to trained community members to share information on the 2003 Convention to their fellow community members during community meetings. The Local Traditional Authorities from the participating chiefdoms were further requested to assist trained community members to disseminated information about the 2003 convention to other chiefdoms in the region that were not part of this project.

Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

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

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

During the introduction of the workshop to the different stakeholders including the local authorities and Government Officials, it was clearly stated that the project is aimed at helping them (communities) to safeguard their own ICH. The communities and all the relevant stakeholders from the Shiselweni in the region fully owned the project. Community participants were selected at Chiefdom level to work ICH matters in the different communities even after the project period. The ENTIC as an implementing agency and the NICHIC only assisted and guided communities throughout the project.

The Tinkhundla centers, which are Government facilities in the Chiefdoms aimed at ensuring community development at grass root level, volunteered to assist in ensuring safety of the equipment during fieldwork and also provided office space for the community members working on the project. The community members working on ICH reported to the Local traditional authorities and the ENTIC on progress and work done. The focal point ENTIC visited the communities from time to time communities to monitor and evaluate progress on the documentation and inventorying of ICH elements in the region.

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

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

Another way to ensure sustainability, the trained participants from this project are now included and form part of the Regional ICH Committee in the Shiselweni Region. The newly trained members were introduced to the Shiselweni ICH Regional Committee to work with them and ensure that the

whole region is covered. The Regional ICH Committees were formed to be an extended arm of the NICHC to ensure that even the remote communities in the four regions of the country are reached. One member of the new trained community members from the region was elected to be part of the NICHC to ensure that decisions taken by the NICHC are communicated to the communities in the region and that progress and challenges at regional level are communicated to the NICHC.

Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

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

1. Final Narrative progress report is attached.

2. Financial Report

3. Auditor's report

4. List of major equipment purchased. The project managed to purchase equipment that were used in inventorying intangible cultural heritage. 3 laptops, 3 video cameras, 3 printers and 3 still cameras. ENTC will be responsible for the safety and service of the equipment even after the contract period has been terminated.

The equipment will not only work in the region but it will assist in conducting ICH inventory throughout the whole country. An inventory form of all ICH equipment purchased was filled and the equipment is kept under the custodianship of the Director of Cultural Heritage at the ENTC. Community members who wish to use the equipment after the project period will be required to fill an equipment loan form prepared by the NICHC and Focal Point Officers and given deadline to bring it back to ensure that it is not misused, lost and that all communities get equal access to it. The NICHC and the Focal Point were fully responsible of the handling, usage and return of the equipment and elements recorded. The ENTC has pledged to service the equipment and also to purchase necessary materials like tonners and stationaries for the printers and install required programmes in the laptop.

5. Report on damaged equipment during civil unrest and Police report

6. Publication from electronic media (Eswatini Television Authority coverage, news).

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Temahlubi D. Nkambule

Title: Ms

Date: 2022.04.22

Signature: 

