



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Mongolia

Project title:	Transmitting and stabilizing the Folk Long performance technique of Limbe performers - circular breathing through the old repertoire to the new generations
Reporting period:	From: 31/01/2020 to: 31/01/2021
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$151407</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$99946</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">State Party contribution: US\$51461</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Other contributions: US\$</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	The National Center for Cultural Heritage
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms</p> <p>Family name: Tserendorj</p> <p>Given name: Tsolmon</p> <p>Institution/position: Specialist of World Heritage in the National Center for Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Address: Central Palace of Culture "B" section,</p> <p>Telephone number: +976-99057308</p> <p>E-mail address: tsolmon.ncch@gmail.com</p>
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO
Implementing partners:	"Mongolian Association for the Limbe performers"

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 limbe is a side-blown wind instrument, mostly made of hard wood or bamboo. It is considered as one of the valuable traditional musical instruments among Mongolians for its unique technique and characteristics such as producing euphonical melody, melisma, hidden tune associated with circular breathing, and its performing techniques of skillful and delicate movements of fingers and tongue. The "Circular breathing" is a great achievement of nomadic Mongolians derived from their creativity, result of the exploration and necessity of their daily life. The origin and development of circular breathing is closely bound up with the skills and knowledge of ancient craftsmen or metalsmiths who specialized in gold and silver. Early Mongolian craftsmen used circular breathing techniques for crafting various decorative and ornamental items including valuable jewelries. In crafting such items, craftsmen were required to blow continuously to the flame through a pipe with needle like hole, in order to make the hard metal melt or soften. In that regards, the craftsmen had to blow gently to the flame through the pipe bitten in their mouth, continuing as long as possible. From such necessity of lifestyle, craftsmen have mastered the technique of circular breathing, creating a circular-like cycle of breathing, simultaneously inhaling through their nose while blowing without any pauses.

The Urtiin duu or Mongolian traditional folk long song (UNESCO inscribed heritage in 2008) is one of the two major forms of Mongolian songs, the other being the short song" (bogino duu). The folk long song is performed in association with Mongolian traditional music of the Morin khuur (Horse Head Fiddle - UNESCO inscribed heritage in 2008), and Limbe performance technique-circular breathing. Folk long song plays a distinct and honoured role in Mongolian society, it is performed at weddings, the inauguration of a new home, the birth of a child, the branding of foals and the naadam (UNESCO inscribed heritage in 2010). The folk long song performance technique of the Limbe performance - circular breathing is inseparable from the folk long song, and it is being practiced in same situation where the traditional folk song is performed.

There was a high risk of possibility that the tradition of this element could disappear from its existence. One of the factors causing the element to disappear is inevitably the significance of decrease of current groups and individuals of artists and practitioners of traditional folklore in numbers and changes in the traditional repertoire. The main change of repertoire in traditional folklore has caused by the tendency to absorb classical or modern forms of view, and the predominance of western methodology in training system. Additionally, the intense globalization and urbanization changes are the factors causing to diminish the value and tendency towards intangible cultural heritage among general public, particularly among younger generations. In this regard, we believed that the inclusion of the element in the UNESCO "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding" would greatly contribute to the survival and revival of this intangible heritage element in danger of disappearing. When the element "Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performances - circular breathing" was inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, only 14 practitioners were inventoried throughout the country.

After the inscription, the Government of Mongolia and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the National Center for Cultural Heritage (NCCH) have carried out some safeguarding measures for this heritage element in cooperation with "Mongolian Association for Limbe performers" (MALP). For instance, publication of handout and apprenticeship training for 10 persons. This was the primary step taken by the Mongolian Government for the safeguarding of this heritage element, and the result of this safeguarding measure has shown

that necessity of further extended inventory for documentation of this heritage element and its practitioners and their old repertoire of folk long song, and to apply the old repertoire from aforementioned inventory to the next apprenticeship trainings, and to stabilize the folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers - circular breathing through old repertoire in new generations, and to sustain the safeguarding of this heritage element and community as well.

Safeguarding measures should be taken continuously in complex way. Inventorying, strengthening of capacities, awareness raising and visibility activities are the inseparable part of safeguarding measures. Besides this, transmission is the key activity and it should be always considered. We have identified the gaps in the safeguarding of this element as lack of transmission on traditional knowledge and practice associated to the circular-breathing and also the traditional repertoire of folk long song. Therefore, we planned to focus on the transmission of this element to young generations through traditional repertoire of folk long song. Increasing number of apprentices and practitioners is the main objective of this project, besides sustaining and strengthening the result of previous safeguarding activities.

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 main objective of this project is to enhance the viability of this heritage element through increasing number of practitioners on basis of the apprenticeship training.

Within the reporting period, following medium and long term objectives were defined and attained results were mentioned as follows;

- In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop on making of limbe instrument has organized in online way. Short video which demonstrates the making procedure of Limbe instrument has made by the National Center for Cultural Heritage and shared with previous 6 participants from 3 regions of Mongolia on making of this instrument, and participants of apprenticeship training of circular breathing and Agency of Education, Culture and Arts in the 21 provinces of Mongolia.

- The second phase of the apprenticeship training on "Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing" have organized in the 7 provinces in 3 regions of Mongolia based on 11 practitioners. Total of 40 apprentices are being involved in this apprenticeship training. Knowledge and practice associated to folk long song performance technique -circular breathing and its old repertoire is being strengthened and stabilized by apprenticeship training for both practitioners and apprentices.

-Aiming to raising awareness of general public on this heritage element and the project, some activities and its results implemented by the project have promoted by media.

Direct beneficiaries and community were the Mongolian Association of Limbe Performers, practitioners of the element and apprentices and amateur learners.

Activities 3, 7 on workplan have fully attained to its expected result and activities 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11 are partially attained its expected result and overall result will come clear in 2021 with other activities on the work plan. Due to the pandemic Covid-19, the activity 8 "Sustainable development and Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing" has not organized in 2020 and planned to be organized in 2021.

Project will attain to its further expected results and long term objectives with implementation of activities on work plan of 2021.

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

In this reporting period total of 9 activities have planned to be implemented and 3 activities fully implemented and 5 activities partially implemented and 1 has not implemented yet. Implementation details were mentioned below:

1. Monitoring for 1st phase or implemented activities of the project in 2019

On the work plan of the project, it was planned to organize general monitoring for implementation of the project annually. According to this plan, the monitoring was conducted by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Culture and art research institute under the Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture to the implemented activities in 2019 by the project (Annex 1- guidelines for monitoring, letter for delivery of monitoring result, the monitoring result). The joint team from the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Culture and art research institute under the Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture have concluded that those activities implemented in 2019 within the frame of the project have fulfilled its objectives and evaluated the fulfillment as 100 percent. The joint monitoring team has gave recommendation on 2 points. In the first, to enable the access of practitioners and local organizations in the field of intangible cultural heritage to the result of research and survey (registration and documentation) done within the frame of this project. In the second, to consider the gender ratio of practitioners of this heritage element, especially in the apprenticeship training.

2. To prepare the temporary cabinet for apprenticeship training in the new building of the NCCH

The construction work of the new building of the National Center for Cultural Heritage has finished in 2020 and the related installment has done in a dedicated room of the center for apprenticeship training. Acoustic panels were installed in the room and additional implements such as notation stand, desk, chair, carpet and laptop were provided (Annex 2).

3. To organize regional apprenticeship training for transmitting the skill and knowledge associated with Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular and to give honorarium to 10 practitioners for conducting the apprenticeship training to young generation

The 2nd step of the apprenticeship training organized in 7 provinces and Ulaanbaatar city between June and October of 2020 for duration of 2 weeks. Total of 11 practitioners from 7 provinces in 3 regions (central, western and gobi) of Mongolia were selected for transmitting the folk long song performing technique-circular breathing to apprentices. Total of 9 practitioners are training 36 apprentices (each practitioner is training 4 apprentices) and 2 practitioners are training 2 apprentices each. Contract has made between NCCH and practitioners for conducting the apprenticeship training as similar as last year and activities related to organization of the apprenticeship training were regulated on the TOR. For instance, to organize the apprenticeship training before December 10th of 2020, and practitioners must submit their activity report by this time, extension and termination of the contract will be based on the result of the apprenticeship training, and the NCCH and MALP will give recommendation to practitioners for improving activities associated to apprenticeship training. Between end of May and middle of July, the joint team from the National Center for Cultural Heritage and the "Mongolian Association of Limbe Performers" has done monitoring for apprenticeship trainings organized in local areas and visited in 6 provinces (Omnogobi, Dornogobi, Ovorkhangai, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan and Khovd) where the apprenticeship is being organized (due to Covid-19, the team could not work in Selenge province). When the joint team worked in the local areas, the apprenticeship training was going on and representative of MALP has gave recommendation

onsite. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the secondary schools were closed in local area and some apprentices were joined in the training by online (Annex 3- photos of apprentices). The honorarium, per diem of practitioners and per diem for apprentices were spent according to the budget detail. The apprenticeship trainings in local area and the Ulaanbaatar city are being organized according to the plan and handouts which distributed last year for practitioners and apprentices and 50 percent of total apprentices have started performing some folk long song by circular breathing. According to the conclusion of the representative of MALP who was working in the monitoring team, 50 percent of apprentices are still in the elementary level of the performing circular breathing. Based on this conclusion, the joint team of monitoring has made recommendation for practitioners for improving the apprenticeship training procedure and also have sent the preliminary conclusion for competition which will be organized in 2021 or in the end of project implementation between new apprentices. In the guidelines of the competition, it was mentioned that the competition will be organized in 2 steps and apprentice must perform following folk long songs by circular breathing in each step.

In the first step, apprentice must perform following 3 folk long songs.

- a/ Khuurkhun Khaliun
- b/ Tsombon tuuraitai khuren
- c/ Nariin saikhan kheer /or other/

In the second step, apprentice must perform following 3 songs.

- a. Onchin tsagaan botgo
- b. Khuren tolgoin suuder
- c. Erdene zasgiin unaga and additional folk long song

We believed that providing with the preliminary guidelines of the competition will enhance the procedure of the apprenticeship training.

4. To support Limbe instrument craftsmanship and to organize related training on making of limbe instrument

In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshop on making of limbe instrument has organized in online way. G.Nyamjantsan a practitioner, craftsman and teacher of Mongolian State Conservatory has conducted the short video, which demonstrates the making procedure of Limbe instrument has made by the National Center for Cultural Heritage and shared with previous 6 participants from 3 regions of Mongolia on making of this instrument, and participants of apprenticeship training of circular breathing and Agency of Education, Culture and Arts in the 21 provinces of Mongolia. The short video link has attached below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pa4L1woNBOsmAX6AXC-plyCJCGa9QMGe/view?fbclid=IwAR3xv5xVjPE_GKe0k8wp_uU4Exv9v0r_Pr5WEH7Un8QhG8gTpNvTz1hGo_M

5. To organize meeting for policy makers, officials in the ministry in connection to include the Limbe performing technique (circular breathing) into the curriculum of the secondary schools

The meeting to include the knowledge and practice associated to the intangible cultural heritage, especially the "Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing" has organized in September 30 of 2020, by the joint cooperation of the NCCH, MALP and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO. The meeting has organized in the UNESCO associated school and participants were from the Ministry of Culture, Institute of Education, the Agency of Education in Ulaanbaatar city, the Mongolian National Museum and music teachers from 9 other secondary schools in the UNESCO associated school. In the meeting, the Ministry of Culture, NCCH and MALP has made presentation regarding the safeguarding of ICH and the project implementation and participants were discussing about the possibilities and and difficulties to include the ICH related knowledge and practices into the curriculum of the secondary schools. Although, this kind of initiatives have done and several

learning books have had this kind of contents already in Mongolia, none of specialists and policy makers of ICH were working in the team for developing the content and made contribution to those books which are being used in the secondary schools. As a result of the meeting and discussion, participants have decided to make recommendation for development of the learning book in association with the ICH and to report it further related organizations (Annex - Photos of meeting, participant list and concept note and agenda).

6. To organize conference "Sustainable Development and Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing" for practitioners and scholars related to heritage element

Due to ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 and partial quarantine, the conference has not yet organized in 2020 and it has planned to be organized in 2021.

7. To duplicate CD "Masterpieces of Mongolian Limbe practitioner and distribute to the libraries and high schools in provinces and districts of Ulaanbaatar city

The preparation of the CD duplication has started in May, 2020. In this CD total of 18 folk long songs performed by circular breathing will be included and 10 of them are performed by present practitioners at the professional studio. Another 8 folk long songs which were performed early by master practitioners will be copied from the national radio under the contract. The MALP has selected all those folk long song to be included in the CD and the "Play entertainment" LLC has made recorded the performance. So far the mastering of CD is being done and the CD will be duplicated by May of 2021.

8. To make documentary film for folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing, and to promote through media

Within the frame of implementation of the 2nd phase of the project, the video shooting of documentary film has done between May and October of 2020 on the implemented activities of the project and has mastered in the studio. Below link you can see the mastered version of the documentary film which contains 2 years project implementation besides with the history, tradition and community of the heritage element. The documentary film will finish next year with the implementation of the project and according to the work plan the last video shooting will be done in the competition of apprentices and then final mastering will be done. The link of documentary film has attached below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jf0RI5PkqATETPS89wEheHBcBYFYX0Jk/view?fbclid=IwAR1EcxmlLVjxETFP04VcdFktMH3wyBjLeKvNrH5hF8UTQiHpO25sizzlh0Q4>

Aiming to provide and promote the visibility of the project, the NCCH, MALP and "Soyon Gegeeruulegch" TV has made the 2nd series of program "Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performer-circular breathing is wonder created by nomads" and broadcasted 10 times between October and December of 2020. Below the link you can see the online version of the TV program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCUZewW-E0Y&fbclid=IwAR1JFIbirhkZZIIG8Ugg-XIFdATYzz34cXPTItQ1lwEMh6Sy3t3-Dk18of0>

9. To publish a biography book for Limbe practitioners

The preparation of the book "The art of Mongolian limbe" (not a final version of title) has started in May, 2020 by the NCCH and MALP. As of December 2020, the content of book has come clear and around 110 pages of materials were collected for book. According to the report by the MALP, around 100 limbe performers biography will be included in the book and besides this brief introduction of 40 apprentices who are being trained by the project will be included in the book. In addition, some information about state competition, well-known folk long songs and photos of limbe instruments will be included in the book. The book will be printed out by the September of 2021.

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 community of limbe performers as "Mongolian Association of Limbe Performers" NGO has fully involved in the every activity of this project. The NGO has founded in 2007, and has over 50 members including master performers, researchers, teacher, musicians, apprentices and supporters. Since founded time, the association has carried out several activities for safeguarding, promoting, registering, documenting, training the young apprentices, and develop the professional skill of Limbe performers. The MALP has actively involved in the preparation of project proposal. In addition, from the very beginning of the preparation of nomination file, revisions and inscription of the element "Folk long song performance technique of Limbe performer-circular breathing" to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2011, this association has actively involved in all steps. The opinions of members and their recommendations were freely been reflected in the activity plan of this project.

The main activities under this project for safeguarding the Folk Long song performance technique of Limbe performers - circular breathing, conducting research, advertising and transmitting to the younger generation are being implemented with full participation of the Limbe performers. For instance, the monitoring team for apprenticeship trainings (which are being organized in the 3 regions of Mongolia) has led by Mr. Ts.Tsevegsuren a head of the MALP and worked in 7 soums of 6 provinces and also in 3 places in Ulaanbaatar city for observing the process of apprenticeship training and to give onsite recommendation for improving the training in the future (due to Covid -19, the team could not worked in Selenge province). In addition, craftsmans and practitioners of making of limbe are actively involved in the online training for making of limbe instrument. Besides this, scholars and researchers of this element are actively involved in the making of documentary film.

Practitioners and apprentices of this element are being involved in this project not only as beneficiaries, but also key partners.

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

Sustainability of result is very important, after the project implementation. Within the framework of this project total 40 apprentices are being trained the practice and knowledge of this element. We see them as future practitioners of this element, therefore, it is very important to sustain and stabilize their knowledge and practice obtained from this project for future generations. The Government of Mongolia has adopted the "National Program for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage" in 2019 for implementing between 2019 and 2023. Within the frame of this program, the Government of Mongolia has planned to implement national campaign for UNESCO inscribed ICH elements including this element and to implement some projects for

these elements.

Activities, outputs and results of this project has promoted by practitioners of this element and different stakeholders, such as Ministry of Culture, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the NCCH, the MALP and Education, Culture and Art Agencies in 21 provinces and other related scholars of this element to the public by social media and media organizations.

In 2020, the Ministry of Culture has newly established in Mongolia and is paying special attention for intangible cultural heritage and its practitioners. In coming years, the ministry will improve the legal environment of ICH and has planned to adopt the separate law as "Law for safeguarding of Intangible cultural heritage" by 2023. This law will play important role to support ICH practitioners and also on the transmission of the heritage practice and knowledge.

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

Due to the ongoing pandemic COVID-19, some minor changes and difficulties came in the project implementation. Even though, the project has attained its result fully and partially. The main activities under this project were, for safeguarding of the Folk Long song performance technique of Limbe performers - circular breathing, conducting research, advertising and transmitting to the younger generation are being implemented with full participation of the Limbe performers. For instance, the apprenticeship training has organized in 7 provinces and monitoring team for apprenticeship training has worked in 6 provinces and seen the training process and observed learning and performing skill of young apprentices and gave onsite recommendation for practitioners to improve the training and teaching method. In addition, craftsmans and practitioners of making of limbe are actively involved in the online training for making of limbe instrument. Besides this, scholars and researchers of this element are actively involved in the making of documentary film. Practitioners and apprentices of this element are being involved in this project not only as beneficiaries, but also key partners. Community members and stakeholders were actively involved in the project activities. We see this as a result of good cooperation between practitioners, the MALP, the NCCH and other stakeholders.

Project outputs were delivered to the community members and general public through social media and media organizations in different type of reporting.

Activities under this project are being implemented by the NCCH and the MALP and other related organizations. The NCCH has conducted the management of the project fully, and involved in the implementation partially. The MALP and practitioners of this heritage element are implementing the key activities of this project, for instance, the field research, apprenticeship training of folk long song performance technique of limbe performers- circular breathing, preparation of CD and biography book for practitioners of this heritage. Further activities of this project would be managed and implemented by NCCH and the MALP and other related stakeholders.

In order to sustain the result of this project, it is necessary to plan further safeguarding activities systematically. Besides the implementation of National Program by the Government of Mongolia, the NCCH and the MALP and other related practitioners will discuss further activities.

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)

Total of 7 annexes and 3 links attached in email.

1. Letter and monitoring result for project 1st phase implemented in 2019. Monitoring has done by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Culture and art research institute under the Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture.
2. Installment photos of the temporary cabinet for apprenticeship training for Folk long song performance technique of circular breathing at the new building of NCCH.
3. Photos of "Apprenticeship training" process in the provinces and monitoring has done by MALP and NCCH.
4. Screenshot photo from the online training on making of Limbe instrument. The online training video link has attached above and in the email.
5. Photos, participant list and agenda of "Meeting to include the ICH knowledge and practice into the curriculum of the secondary school: In case of the folk long song performance technique of Limbe performers-circular breathing"
6. Financial Statement and Receipts
7. Detailed report of project 2nd phase (in Mongolian with photos)

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Ms. Tserendorj TSOLMON

Title: Specialist of World Heritage

Date: 31/01/2021

Signature:  T. Tsolmon