

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Deadline: 15 February 2023
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information requested below.
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

Asociación TejeTeje

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Weaving Weaving (teje teje) Association

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO90368

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Asociación TejeTeje

Address: Cra. 2 # 29-144 apartment 601, Edificio Casa del Mar, Playa Salguero,
Santa Marta, Colombia

Telephone number: +575-4220520

Email address: asociacion@tejeteje.org

Website: www.tejeteje.org

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Rozo

Given name: Cesar Emilio

Institution/position: Director

Address: Cra. 2 # 29-144 apartment 601, Edificio Casa del Mar, Playa Salguero, Santa Marta, Colombia

Telephone number: 3145889042

Email address: asociacion@tejeteje.org / cerozo@gmail.com

Other relevant information: Alternative Contact: Mrs. Maria Fernanda Alzate (legal representative) fernandaalzate@gmail.com 3105645115 and asociacion@tejeteje.org

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

Not to exceed 250 words

B.1. Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

FOR PART B: Chapter III: Safeguarding of the ICH at the national level (Pg 18)

International level:

Article 19 Cooperation

1. For the purposes of this Convention, international cooperation includes, *inter alia*, the exchange of information and experience, joint initiatives, and the establishment of a mechanism of assistance to States Parties in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of their national legislation and customary law and practices, the States Parties recognize that the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is of general interest to humanity, and to that end undertake to cooperate at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels.

8 Thematic areas of the overall results framework (Pg 166, review indicators!)

1. Institutional and human capacities
2. Transmission and education
3. Inventorying and research
4. Policies as well as legal and administrative measures
5. Role of ICH and its safeguarding in society
6. Awareness raising
7. Engagement of communities, groups and individuals as well as other stakeholders
8. International engagement

Every project and activity carried out by Teje Teje is done with the support and endorsement of the local indigenous authorities. The Colombian constitution recognizes indigenous authorities as legal local governments in which they may exercise jurisdictional functions within their territorial scope, in accordance with their own rules and procedures. Taking the above into account, Teje Teje has always taken in consideration the need to strengthen these local governments to support the continued practice and

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

transmission of ICH.

It is with local indigenous governments and the elder shamans that Teje Teje proposes several projects and activities for strengthening human capacities to promote safeguarding and management of ICH, such as:

1. Association of women weavers (Ette Ennaka indigenous community in the Caribbean coast): Teje Teje has carried out capacity-building workshops to improve not only the traditional weaving techniques, but also the women's association administrative capacities. In the long term, women who have participated in the project and received training are now trainers for the younger generations.
2. Research projects with young indigenous leaders, around ICH issues, such as traditional medicine, religious ceremonies, history and memory.
3. Training on traditional arts and crafts: with support from the British Council, Teje Teje has been working on the transmission of these traditional techniques as a mechanism for preserving the ICH.
4. Teje Teje has promoted the promulgation of a land restitution sentence (under Colombian Decree-Law 4633 of 2011³) for the Ette Ennaka indigenous community. In this framework we contributed to strengthening human capacities in the indigenous legislation comprehension, specifically in the implications of the court ruling on their favour.

B.2. *Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Education and transmission of knowledge is a core issue for the safeguarding of ICH, and that is the reason why Teje Teje always works with different generations, from the elder shamans to small children. We are currently working with the Desano indigenous community of the Colombian Amazon basin (Vaupés department), in the collective making of a storybook that tells the origin stories and settlement of the Desano people around Mitú. We do it by creating orality sceneries in which elders tell stories which are then illustrated by the schoolchildren. We will publish a story book in Desano, Tukano and Spanish.

With the same goals, Teje Teje published in 2020 a book on the traditional chants of the Ette Ennaka people, which was the result of the elder singers' teaching to children how to sing in the traditional way. The book, also illustrated by schoolchildren, was published in Ette Taara and Spanish and includes recordings of the chants.

In the strengthening of the traditional weaving process with the Ette Ennaka, Teje Teje built the artisans house on 2021 in the Nara Kajmanta settlement (Santa Marta, Caribbean coast). The house is intended, among other aims, to be a place for knowledge exchange, where the weavers teach younger generations the traditional techniques.

With the elder shamans and some Ette Ennaka leaders, Teje Teje has been traveling around sacred sites for traditional protection and inventory purposes. Part of the project seeks to generate knowledge transmission to the younger generations on the importance and the traditional stories behind these sacred sites.

B.3. *Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

With support from the British Council, Teje Teje has been setting forward local research processes in which we train young indigenous leaders (men and women) in basic qualitative methodologies. The process itself makes leaders more aware of the importance of their ICH, but also, the results of their research are published in books, posters, videos or radio programmes which are useful for educational

³ Decree-Law 4633 of 2011 is part of the Colombian Victims Public Policy, and it dictates the « measures of assistance, attention, comprehensive reparation and territorial rights' restitution of victims belonging to indigenous peoples and communities.»

purposes at schools and communities in general (see Teje Teje's website).

On a different level, Teje Teje has carried out research on ethnic and territorial rights of the Ette Ennaka people for a land restitution process (2015 - 2018) by elaborating a characterization which included issues such as traditional medicine, knowledge about land management and sacred sites and symbolic interpretation of violent acts, among other issues, that are tightly related with ICH.

With the Ette Ennakas, Teje Teje has been inventorying the sacred sites of their ancestral territory for five years. To date, jointly with traditional authorities, we have identified (and GPS – referenced) more than 100 sites. As a result, we have published a book that includes the maps, along with the traditional stories told by the elders about the sites. This material has been useful in the land restitution process, as well as for conversations the Ette Ennakas have held with their neighbours -the Arhuacos and Kogis-, and for internal knowledge transmission processes. This project has been supported by our allies from Switzerland *Traditions for Tomorrow*.

B.4. Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

In the thematic area of legal measures Teje Teje achieved the promulgation of a court sentence for land and territorial rights restitution in favour of the Ette Ennaka people (Sentence 004/2018). For such accomplishment, we elaborated a characterization of ethnic and territorial affections that the Colombian armed conflict has had on the mentioned indigenous population.

In terms of the affectation of rights from the sociocultural perspective, **the research and characterization** process explain how, during the armed conflict, illegal armed groups imposed restrictions on the practice of the ancestral traditions of the Ette Ennaka people such as ceremonies, dances, chants and speaking their native language, the Ette Taara. During one of the most violent periods, in the 90's, Ette Ennaka communities had very restricted access to their sacred sites (which are not only ecologically key places, but also fundamental for their cultural existence). Sacred sites represent for the Ette Ennaka people a very important part of their ICH, since their cultural and mythical history has taken place in such sites.

In the process of presenting this characterization, it was important to guarantee that the judge understood clearly the close relationship between territory (land) and cultural heritage so that he could have a holistic understanding of how cultural affections can become as well, a violation of territorial rights. For such purpose, Teje Teje had the chance to explain all the arguments in an oral audience with the judge (as well as in the written characterization).

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

During the report period, Teje Teje promoted with the support of the Colombian Ministry of Culture, the collective construction of the so-called PES (by its acronym in Spanish, Plan Especial de Salvaguardia – Special Safeguarding Plan) of the "braiding" of the *Caña Flecha*; a traditional fibre (*Gynerium sagittatum*) from which the Zenú indigenous community in the Caribbean Coast, make different objects. Zenú people are specially known for the weaving of the *Sombrero Vueltiao*, a typical Colombian hat made from the *Caña Flecha* fibre.

What was safeguarded in the plan was the traditional knowledge behind the weaving skills of the Zenú people, as well as other cultural manifestations associated with the "braiding" of the *Caña Flecha* (the technique consists of interlacing a set of fibres of different colours, which when weaved, make up the braids with which they make the products). The Zenú people define themselves as artisans, a practice that they recognize as a "legacy of the ancestors" and indisputable "Zenú identity stamp". However, within the artisan work, it is recognized that the braiding of the *Caña Flecha* occupies a very important place.

Besides being a source of identity, knowledge and skills, the “braiding” of the *Caña Flecha*, and other handcrafted objects is a resource that enables sustainable development. In this sense, the safeguarding plan seeks to ensure that production of the *Caña Flecha* is socially as well as environmentally sustainable. The Zenú cultural manifestation of the “braiding of *Caña Flecha*” was included in the Colombian representative list of ICH in march 2022.

B.6. Describe your organization’s participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Every project carried out by Teje Teje has a previous phase of conversations and agreements with local indigenous governments, leaders and the elder shamans, making sure that information is shared with the whole community which guarantees informed consent.

The long-term work that Teje Teje has implemented with indigenous communities, especially in the Colombian Caribbean Coast, has generated conscious and well-informed leaders that are very aware of the importance of their ICH, and are now willing to promote it and defend it. Activities carried out in projects include conversation sceneries with communities in which empowered leaders explain in Spanish and Ette Taara to the rest of the community the relevance of visiting sacred sites or teaching traditional handcrafting skills to children, for example.

Also, Teje Teje has promoted events targeting the general public, such as photographic exhibitions and forums, in partnership with the Banco de la República Network of Libraries, and the Gold Museum. The most recent event (held on XXX) consisted on the launch of the book on sacred sites at Santa Marta’s Gold Museum. In this type of activities leaders proudly and fluently explain to non-indigenous people about their traditions, cultural meaning of handcrafts, and other important issues of their ICH. We can assure that the Ette Ennaka people have been gradually raising awareness of the importance of their ICH and its safeguarding, not only within their communities, but also with the rest of non-indigenous society. Teje Teje’s website also provides information about the different project results and contains valuable audio-visual resources aiming to contribute to raise awareness about the importance of ICH.

B.7. Describe your organization’s participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

Indigenous communities that Teje Teje works with, are very engaged with the safeguarding of their ICH, inscribed or not in the representative list. We can derive this conclusion for we have supported for years the work of women weavers, local researchers and leaders (just to name a few examples) and we can see a progress in the way they speak to others about their cultural heritage, the way they are now interested in transmitting traditional knowledge to children, the way they are producing materials for the promotion and safeguarding of knowledge and cultural practices and the way leaders and local indigenous governments prioritize ICH issues in their agendas. We have witnessed how communities have progressively incorporated an ICH discourse into their priority issues.

develop the communities’ ideas and proposals. Teje Teje offers all the technical support.

Teje Teje also has a fundraising strategy which has enabled the organization to raise resources from national and international partners (private and public) willing to contribute to safeguarding ICH. As a result, over the last years organizations such as the British Council, *Tradition pour Demain*, Ecopetrol have supported the implementation of projects for ICH.

B.8. Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

Not to exceed 250 words

At the international level Teje Teje has been participating in some of the sessions of the intergovernmental committee for the safeguarding of ICH, which have been very important opportunities for learning on good safeguarding practices and interchanging experiences and information with other NGOs as well as with State Parties. It is important to highlight that Teje Teje received an invitation from the Colombian Ministry of Culture (that organized the 14th session on 2019), to participate in a workshop that aimed to plan NGO's intervention and participation at Bogotá's session of the committee. Ideas of accredited NGO's participation were also discussed with other NGOs from Latin America and the Caribbean, more at the regional level.

At the bilateral level, Teje Teje has alliances with the Swiss NGO *Traditions for Tomorrow* and with the *British Council*, both working on the safeguarding of ICH. With *Traditions for Tomorrow*, we have developed projects on inventorying / GPS-positioning of sacred sites, and generational transmission of knowledge, which includes:

- Healing plants associated to these sites.
- Traditional care for the sacred sites
- Traditional stories on sacred sites
- History of the Ette Ennaka people around their sacred sites

With British council we have been promoting local research on ICH issues such as skills and techniques for traditional handicrafts, traditional medicine and healing plants, traditional chants and dances and history. With results of research projects undertaken by young indigenous leaders and school students, we have produced materials for promotion and knowledge transmission such as small videos and primers. We are now working on a young readers' story book with the Desano people from Vaupés department in the Amazon Basin.

B.9. Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

Not to exceed 250 words

To date, TejeTeje has not participated in the drafting process of the national Periodic Report. However, we are willing to contribute in the future in our knowledge areas.

B.10. Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Not to exceed 250 words

To date, Teje Teje has participated in the nomination of the "Braiding (weaving) of the *Caña Flecha*" a cultural expression of the Zenú people in the Córdoba and Sucre departments in the Colombian Caribbean Coast. As described above, Teje Teje, with support from the Colombian Ministry of Culture, organized several activities and workshops with the Zenú people, which allowed the collective construction of the special safeguarding plan. Once the plan was drafted, we fulfilled the requirements for the presentation of the cultural manifestation to the *National Council of Cultural Heritage* (CNPC, by its acronym in Spanish), for its formal nomination to the Colombian ICH representative list. The council is in charge of advising the Ministry of Culture on safeguarding, protection and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Its technical concept on the inclusion of a certain cultural manifestation in the representative list, is mandatory.

Once the Teje Teje – Zenú team presented the cultural manifestation and made some adjustments to the safeguarding plan suggested by the CNPC, the "Braiding of the *Caña Flecha*" was included in the Colombian representative list (march 2022).

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- ☐ Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- ☐ Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- ☐ Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- ☐ Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- ☐ Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- ☐ Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- ☐ Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- ☐ Financial support from the Participation Programme
- ☒ Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

On October 28/2021, Teje Teje attended an interview with a member of the ICH NGO forum's executive board (Gustavo Caicedo). The interview aimed to map the competences of accredited NGOs and collect information on their activities, experience, scope of work and participation in the implementation of 2003's Convention. As complementary information, Teje Teje sent Gustavo written information as well as pictures of Teje Teje's work.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

TejeTeje has participated in the following sessions of the committee for the safeguarding of ICH:

- 13th session at Port Louis, Mauritius (2018)
- 14th session at Bogotá, Colombia (2019)
- 15th session – online (2020)
- 17th session at Rabat, Morocco (2022)

In all sessions that Teje Teje has attended, we have participated in the ICH-NGO forum. As a platform for communications, networking, exchange and cooperation, the forum has contributed to Teje Teje's growth, as we have been learning from other experiences and we have had the opportunity to discuss ICH issues with actors in all parts of the world, that in spite of being geographically far away or culturally different, in many occasions we share the same problems. Within the framework of the forum, we have participated in the members' election of the forum's executive board.

Also, in the different sessions of the ICH NGO forum, at the regional level, NGOs from Latin America and the Caribbean have been discussing the importance of strengthening a group of Spanish-speaking NGOs within the forum. In addition, NGOs have evidenced the need for advice, from the accredited NGOs with more experience, towards the new ones.

At the 14th session in Bogotá we had the opportunity to participate in the accredited NGO forum with a presentation on Teje Teje's work (objectives, strategic pathways and recent work) in a

very interesting conversation and exchange of experiences with other accredited NGOs.

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No, TejeTeje hasn't served yet as member of the Evaluation Body or member of the Consultative Body.

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

To date, TejeTeje hasn't provided advisory services to the Committee. However, we are available to provide these advisory services in the future in our areas of expertise. For example, we could:

1. Identify, for indigenous communities in the Caribbean Coast, if safeguarding plans have reached their goal, to what extent, or if on the contrary, some elements should be nominated for the list of ICH in need of urgent safeguarding.
2. Identify, other cultural manifestations to be included in the Colombian representative list or in the representative list of humanity.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

TejeTeje has an interdisciplinary team with one member that has very good command of English. She is a senior anthropologist with broad experience working with Colombian indigenous communities in several fields such as Education, Culture and Cultural Heritage, public policies and environment.

Also, in our Board of Directors we have 3 members with excellent command in English who support the organization to respond to any requirements in this language.

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

In the experience of working with indigenous communities, we have found that is very important in their particular way of thinking, and in their particular cultures, that all issues are treated in a holistic way. In this sense, Teje Teje has worked practically across all ICH domains because when strengthening one of them we find it impossible, not to refer to others.

Teje Teje's experience in working with ICH domains include:

Oral traditions and expressions Desano storybook in 3 languages, support of Ette Taara teachers at the Nara Kajmanta settlement school.

Performing arts: workshops for the knowledge transmission of traditional chants and dances with the Ette Ennaka people and woodcarving of traditional musical instruments.

Social practices, rituals and festive events: strengthening and promotion of traditional ceremonies and prayers

knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe: traditional medicine and healing plants, traditional care for the sacred sites and traditional knowledge on the Ette Ennakas' worldview; travels with the Arhuaco shamans around what they call the "black line", the traditional boundaries of their territory.

Traditional craftsmanship: strengthening of artisans' skills on weaving the traditional Ette Ennaka *mochila* (bag), as well as the creation of the women weavers association and training of the weavers in administrative issues. Promotion of the special safeguarding plan for the braiding (weaving) of the Caña Flecha, with Zenú indigenous communities.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

To date, TejeTeje has not participated in the evaluation or analysis of documents such as proposals or applications.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Since Teje Teje has been working in a very local scope, we haven't had the need for drafting texts in other language than Spanish. The only English written texts we draft are these for UNESCO. Nevertheless, we are capable of writing texts in English if needed. As described above, one of the members of our staff has very good command of English.

E.5. *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Although Teje Teje doesn't have experience in working at the international level, we have the capacity and knowledge for working with other indigenous communities in Latin America. It is important to highlight that although each indigenous ethnic group has cultural particularities that make them unique, they also share characteristics with other indigenous ethnic groups. For example, some groups, in spite of the national divisions, are part of the same language family. Ette Ennakas speak Ette Taara which belongs to the Chibcha family shared with some indigenous ethnic groups in Central America.

Also, since Teje Teje has experience with Amazonian indigenous ethnic groups, and many of them live in two or even three countries of the Amazon Basin, we could work in other country of de Amazon Basin. Most Amazonian indigenous groups share various cultural characteristics, such as, for example, linguistic exogamy and a social organization around clans.

These similarities plus the knowledge and experience that Teje Teje has in participative and consultative methodologies when working with indigenous communities, enables us to work with other ethnic groups in Latin America.

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: María Fernanda Alzate

Title: Legal Representative

Date: February 10, 2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "María Fernanda Alzate". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "María" and last name "Alzate" being more prominent than the middle name "Fernanda".