

Funding priority 1

Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage using multi-modal approaches and contribute to sustainable development

Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):	25 countries in all regions, prioritizing Africa and Small Island Developing States
Duration (in months):	2022-2025 (48 months)
Name and Unit of Project Officer(s):	Tim Curtis, Chief, Living Heritage Entity and Secretary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Susanne Schnüttgen, Head of Unit, Capacity Building and Heritage Policy, Living Heritage Entity
Partner(s) institutions:	Ministries in charge of intangible cultural heritage and/or other governmental and non-governmental institutions with responsibilities relevant to intangible cultural heritage
Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:	US\$5 million

Rationale and overall purpose

With a decade-long experience of delivering in-person training, the global capacity-building programme has become an integral part of the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level. “(...) *capacity-building is at the core of what UNESCO is and should be doing,*” underlines the evaluation of the Internal Oversight Service, 2021 (see document [LHE/21/16.COM/10](#)). The emergence of the COVID-19 crisis and the related restrictions made particularly clear that the capacity-building programme needs to adapt, calling for creative and innovative ways for programme delivery in an online environment. The programme has successfully piloted new online and hybrid delivery formats. Building on the lessons learnt, the programme is now undergoing a reorientation to include a multi-modal delivery approach, thus providing opportunities for expanding programme outreach to new audiences and harnessing innovative pedagogy, while ensuring cost-effectiveness ([LHE/20/8.GA/7 Rev.](#)).



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Progress and achievements

The Programme has continued to address the core actions for safeguarding living heritage while also making progress in addressing new training needs. A specific capacity-building approach was developed for the roll-out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism and implemented in the first regional cycle of reporting (Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe). Within the thematic scope, the programme has further developed and piloted training approaches in various areas.

Core actions	Thematic areas to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ implementing the Convention ❖ community-based inventorying ❖ safeguarding plans ❖ nominations and international assistance ❖ overall results framework & related periodic reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ education ❖ sustainable development ❖ gender ❖ emergencies ❖ urban contexts

Over the past four years the number of countries benefitting from the Programme has reached over 120 countries and trained over 2400 individuals from government, civil society and communities. The information gathered in project reports and evaluations suggests that capacity building in these areas, together with the advisory services provided for policy analysis and revision, are effectively contributing to the establishment of the professional and institutional environment required to support communities and groups in their efforts to transmit and recreate their ICH.

Challenges and ways forward

While the 2021 IOS evaluation further confirmed the centrality of the global capacity-building Programme for the implementation of the Convention, the context and conditions for implementing the Programme are evolving. Increasing and continued demand for capacity-building services is expressed individually by Member States⁵ and by different stakeholder groups, such as non-governmental organizations, universities, and culture centres. Although the demand exceeds the Programme's delivery capacity, it has experienced a decline in funding. Therefore, efforts to develop and sustain collaboration and build new partnerships with diverse actors including category 2 centres, development agencies, heritage institutions, universities, and UNESCO university chairs, are underway.

The ongoing strategic reorientation of the Programme will capitalize on the opportunities and advantages of online and in-person training (blended, hybrid and online modalities), to address the evolving demand. At the same time, the Programme will strengthen the facilitators network to broaden its geographic scope and thematic expertise utilizing the new technology and social media platforms. The roll out of the reformed periodic reporting mechanism will provide new opportunities to develop national networks of trainers (or equivalent mechanisms) to strengthen and sustain capacity building in countries. Training on the Convention's Overall results framework and its related periodic reporting will continue to enjoy high priority.

At the thematic level, the Programme will continue to roll out capacity building related to emergencies, ICH in urban contexts, education, gender, and sustainable development, while taking on new areas. It will also address capacity-building needs resulting from the new developments under the Convention.

The expected impact of this Programme is a vibrant collaboration between governmental and non-governmental institutions, universities, and communities in an increasing number of countries to guarantee that the latter can sustainably recreate, maintain, and transmit their living heritage to the next generation, while respecting the principles of the Convention. Furthermore, the Programme intends to strengthen the recognition of ICH in sustainable development and contribute to the 2030 Agenda⁶ and other internationally agreed regional or global development agendas, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, amongst others.

Potential new programme areas

- ❖ commercialization of ICH
- ❖ climate change
- ❖ sustainable tourism
- ❖ nominations under reformed listing mechanism
- ❖ international assistance
- ❖ others

5. See for example the decision of the fourteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee (Decision [14.COM 5.b](#)).

6. See Chapter VI of the Operational Directives in the Basic Texts of the Convention, [2020 Edition](#).

Summary of outcomes and outputs

Outcome N°1: Countries integrate the safeguarding of ICH into their plans, policies, and programmes, utilizing the 2003 Convention's Overall Results Framework and applying an inclusive and gender-responsive approach. ⁷	
	Output N°1.1: Technical assistance provided for policy and programme development, including the integration of ICH safeguarding in national development programmes.
	Output N°1.2: Capacity reinforced for ICH-related policy and legal development.
Outcome N°2: Countries draw upon competent bodies, institutions, and networks at the national level to support the continued practice and transmission of ICH.	
	Output N°2.1: Capacities of competent bodies and institutions for safeguarding ICH strengthened.
	Output N°2.2: National network of trainers (or equivalent mechanism), and university networks initiated or strengthened to respond to capacity-building needs at national and decentralized levels.
Outcome N°3: Countries establish or revise a framework and methodology for inventorying which is inclusive, respects the diversity of ICH and its practitioners, and supports safeguarding by the communities, groups and individuals concerned.	
	Output N°3.1: Knowledge and practical skills for community-based inventorying reinforced, applying an inclusive and gender-responsive approach.
Outcome N°4: Countries utilize strengthened human resources for safeguarding ICH, in different thematic areas, thereby contributing to sustainable development.	
	Output N°4.1: Capacities and skills of communities, groups and individuals to develop safeguarding plans for ICH reinforced.
	Output N°4.1: Capacities of actors from culture and other sectors strengthened for safeguarding ICH in thematic areas such as emergencies, education and urban context, responding to country needs.
Outcome N°5: Countries participate actively in the Convention's mechanisms for international cooperation, including the International Assistance mechanism where relevant.	
	Output N°5.1: Capacities for participation in the international mechanisms of the Convention, including the preparation of International Assistance requests and/or nominations under the reformed listing mechanism reinforced.
Outcome N°6: Countries utilize the Overall Results Framework for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in their monitoring, and reporting activities.	
	Output N°6.1: Capacities for results-based reporting of countries, communities, groups, individuals and other ICH related institutions developed.
	Output N°6.2: Knowledge of intersectoral synergies and collaboration for safeguarding ICH strengthened.

7. References to 'inclusive', 'inclusively' or 'on an inclusive basis' should be understood to mean 'inclusive of all sectors and strata of society, including indigenous peoples, migrants, immigrants and refugees, people of different ages and genders, persons with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups' (cf. Operational Directives 174 and 194).

Implementation strategy

The capacity-building process is steered by UNESCO's network of field offices, in cooperation with national counterparts and with on-going technical support from the Living Heritage Entity. The multi-modal programme delivery approach will allow UNESCO to offer different delivery options to States Parties (hybrid, in-person, online), taking into account the context, pedagogic considerations, feasibility, and cost effectiveness. States are provided with a diverse complement of interventions designed – according to each State's needs.

Technical assistance will be provided using content and materials developed by UNESCO as part of its capacity-building curriculum. UNESCO has developed training materials and guidance tools on several topics, ranging from the core actions of the Convention to different thematic areas. The in-person materials are available online and are being converted for the multi-modal programme delivery approach. Translation of materials into local languages will be built into a country project to support the localization of the curriculum where needed. The training and advisory services are delivered through the Programme's dynamic and expanding network of 140 facilitators (November 2021), trained to deliver capacity-building services in the field of ICH upon demand while creating synergies with national expertise and networks.

The Programme foresees establishing links with national development strategies, and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Common Country Assessment (CCA) processes, as part of the policy work, which aims to create an environment supportive to safeguarding ICH and harness its potential for sustainable development. Attention will be paid to the equal involvement of all genders as part of an inclusive approach.

Stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners

Beneficiaries are the different actors involved in the decision-making, administration and practical aspects related to safeguarding ICH from the culture and other sectors. For the policy component of the Programme, the primary beneficiaries are officials from ministries of culture and other ministries willing to integrate the safeguarding of ICH in their work. The training and advisory process may also include relevant institutes, NGOs, universities and community representatives. For the activities related to community-based inventorying and safeguarding, the primary beneficiaries are field workers and the groups and communities concerned, including youth.

The Convention recognizes the central role of communities in safeguarding their ICH. Therefore, all activities carried out under this Programme will be in line with the Convention's Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and will obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the communities concerned.⁸ The Programme will take an inclusive approach to ensure the widest possible participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of safeguarding activities.

Risk analysis, sustainability and exit strategy

The Programme is designed to maximize its sustainability and multiplier effect. Using a needs-based approach, it aims to create in each beneficiary country a critical level of national capacity, both in government institutions and among key players from communities, civil society, universities, heritage institutions, forming a sustainable foundation for safeguarding ICH. The capacity-building Programme includes the establishment of national networks of trainers (or equivalent mechanisms) and strengthening partnerships with relevant organizations or institutions, which can replicate capacity building by relying on internal expertise, built and strengthened through the Programme.

The Programme seeks to strengthen institutional-level relations in countries through the identification of suitable institutional partners. By involving stakeholders from both the culture sector and other development fields, the Programme facilitates the integration of provisions for safeguarding ICH into larger development strategies and programmes, thereby further sustaining the viability of ICH and harnessing it for the well-being of communities and societies.

8. See the [Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage](#).