



The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Bangkok, December 2005

Purposes & Definition

Safeguarding

Implementation

Working towards a Convention

- 1973: Bolivia's proposal to add a protocol to the Copyright Convention
- 1982: Mondiacult, Mexico
- 1989: Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore
- 1994: The Living Human Treasures programme
- 1999: Safeguarding Traditional Cultures: A Global Assessment, Washington
- 2001-03: Preparatory meetings
- 2001-05: 3 Proclamations of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

Adoption

- Intergovernmental expert meetings
- 32nd General Conference of UNESCO
- Adoption on 17 October 2003
 - 120 votes in favour
 - 8 abstentions
 - No votes against
- Entry into force: 3 months after ratification by 30 States



Purposes

- Safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Ensure respect for Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Raise awareness
- International cooperation

Definition

For the purposes of the 2003 Convention, intangible cultural heritage means:

- expressions
- representations
- practices
- knowledge
- skills
- + associated:
 - instruments
 - objects
 - artefacts
 - cultural spaces

that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals, recognize as part of their cultural heritage

Intangible & Tangible

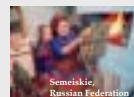
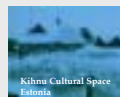
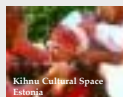
Intangible

- expressions
- representations
- practices
- knowledge
- skills

Tangible

- monuments
- groups of buildings
- sites
- natural areas

instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural spaces, cultural landscapes, traditional knowledge



Characteristics of ICH

Concepts

This intangible cultural heritage is:

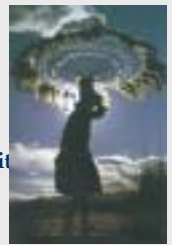


Zápara People, Ecuador-Peru

- transmitted from generation to generation,
- constantly recreated by communities in response to
 - their environment
 - their interaction with nature and
 - their history,
- provides communities with a sense of identity and continuity
- Complies with
 - Mutual respect
 - Intern. human rights instruments
 - Sustainable development

- Living heritage
- Human borne
- Communities
 - Open, liberal
 - Multiple identities
 - Dominant/non dominant
 - Mobile
- Representativeness ?
- Continuously recreated. Authenticity
- Non competitive, no hierarchy
- Processes vs. products
- Safeguarding vs. protection

Oruro, Bolivia



Oral Traditions



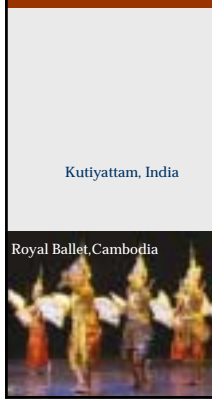
The Tenore Song, Italy

Oral traditions of the Aka Pygmies of Central Africa



Hudhud Chants of the Ifugao in the Philippines

Performing Arts



Kutiyattam, India



Art of Uyghur Muqam, China



Royal Ballet, Cambodia

Kutiyattam, India
Kabuki, Japan

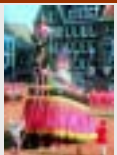
Social Practices, Rituals, Festive Events



Baltic celebrations



Jongmyo ancestral rite, Rep.Korea



Giants, Dragons, Belgium, France



Makishi Masquerade, Zambia



The Kankurang, Senegal, Gambia



Carnival of Oruro, Bolivia

Traditional craftsmanship

woodcrafting knowledge of the Zafimaniry, Madagascar



Zapara cultural heritage, Peru - Ecuador



Knowledge & Practices about nature and the universe

Asia-Pacific Database on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for UNESCO (ACCU) by Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre

Vanuatu Sand drawing



Wajapi Expressions, Brasil



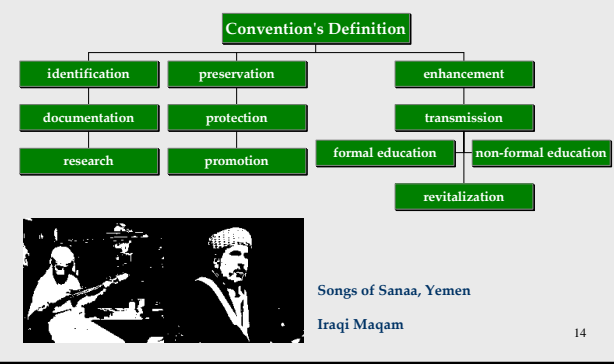
Zápara People, Ecuador Peru



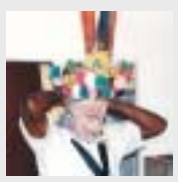
Andean cosmovision of the Kallawayá, Bolivia



Safeguarding



Role of States Parties



The Garifuna Language, Dance and Music, Belize

- Take necessary measures to ensure safeguarding
- Identify and define elements of intangible heritage, with participation of communities, groups and NGO's

National Safeguarding Measures



Shashmaqom Music Tajikistan - Uzbekistan



- Inventory making
- Adopt a general safeguarding policy
 - to promote the function of ITH
 - to integrate safeguarding into planning programmes
- Establish competent safeguarding bodies
- Foster studies and research methodologies

National Safeguarding Measures (2)



The Gbofe of Afounkaha: the Music of the Transverse trumpets and the cultural space of the Tagbana Community Côte d'Ivoire

- Adopt legal, technical, administrative and financial measures:
 - training institutions for intangible heritage management and transmission
 - ensure access to intangible cultural heritage
 - establish documentation institutions

Education, awareness-raising, capacity building

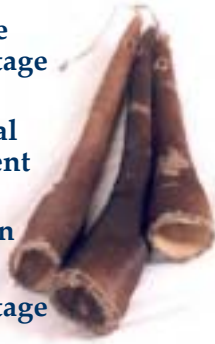
1. ensure recognition of and respect for intangible heritage
2. enhance ICH through training and transmission
3. inform the public of dangers threatening intangible cultural heritage
4. promote education for protection of natural spaces and places of memory



Gbofe of Afounkaha: the Music of the Transverse trumpets and the cultural space of the Tagbana Community, Côte d'Ivoire

Safeguarding at international level

- Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- International Cooperation and Assistance
- Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund



Implementation

- The General Assembly
- The Intergovernmental Committee
- The Secretariat (UNESCO)
- The Advisory Organizations



The Cultural Space of Sosso-Bala in Nyagassola, Guinea

General Assembly

- Sovereign Body of the Convention
- Meets for the first time after Convention's entry into force
- Will meet in ordinary session every two years, or in extraordinary session
 - when it so decides, or
 - when requested by Committee
 - when requested by at least one-third of States Parties
- Adopts its own rules of procedures
- Elects the members of the Committee
- Approves the Operational Directives



The Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah Epic, Egypt

Intergovernmental Committee

- Number of Members:
 - 18 after entry into force of the Convention
 - 24 after 50 ratifications
- 4 years term, renewal of half of the members every 2 years
- Principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation

The Art of Akyns, Kyrgyz Epic Tellers Kyrgyzstan



Functions of the Committee

- Promote the objectives of the Convention
- Provide guidance on best practices
- Make recommendations on safeguarding measures
- Seek means of increasing its resources
- Prepare Operational Directives for implementation of the Convention
- Examine periodic reports of States Parties
- Examine requests for
 - inscription on the lists
 - granting international assistance



The Pansori Epic Chant Republic of Korea



Cooperation

ICH is general interest to humanity
 → International cooperation

- Exchange of information and experience
- Joint initiatives
- Establishment of a mechanism of assistance to States Parties
- Bilateral subregional, regional and international cooperation

International Assistance

Purposes:

- Safeguarding of heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- Preparation of inventories
- Support for programmes, projects and activities in the State Party

Forms:

- Studies
- Provision of experts and practitioners
- Training of staff
- Elaboration of standard-setting and other measures



Congos of Villa Mella Dominican Republic

Where are we now?

- Preparation of the Implementation of the Convention:
 - Organization of Experts meetings
 - Preparation of Thematic manuals
 - Preparation of meetings of the Statutory Bodies:
 - Rules of Procedure
 - Draft Operational Directives
- Experience gained with the Masterpieces



The Cultural Space of Sosso-Bala in Nyagassola, Guinea

Experts Meetings and Manuals

Experts meetings for preparing the implementation of the Convention:

- Gender and Intangible Cultural Heritage, December 2003
- Safeguarding Traditional Music and the Convention, December 2003
- Museums and Intangible Cultural Heritage, April 2004
- Inventory-making of the intangible cultural heritage, March 2005
- Archiving and Documenting Intangible Cultural Heritage, January 2006
- Management of ICH and its relation to development March 2006
- Participation of Communities in Safeguarding ICH, March 2006

Experts meetings for preparing the Manuals on ICH Domains:

- Manual on Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events, July 2004
- Manual on Music, Dance and Theatre Traditions, November 2005
- Manual on Oral Traditions and Expressions, January 2006

Experience gained with The Masterpieces



Zápara People, Ecuador-Peru

- *Proclamation of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity* was created in 1997/8
- 90 masterpieces have been proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001, 2003 and 2005
- The 2003 Convention foresees that after the entry into force of the Convention no new Proclamations will take place
- The Intergovernmental Committee shall incorporate in the Representative List of the Convention the Masterpieces that were proclaimed before the entry into force of the Convention.

Masterpieces: Examples of Safeguarding

- Examples of safeguarding measures implemented within the framework of the Masterpieces activity:

- Creation -or strengthening- of associations, cultural houses, special commissions
- Provisions for the safeguarding of ICH included in urban planning programmes
- Inventorying exercises of ICH
- Adoption of new administrative provisions taking into account the specific needs of intangible heritage within general cultural heritage policies



- February 2006: Meeting on the results of the Masterpieces Programme

Examples (1)

Mystery Play, Elche, Spain

- Identification of underlying problems concerning safeguarding
- reinforced cooperation between the different agencies responsible for safeguarding the Mystery
- Development of sustainable cultural tourism in the city of Elche
- Renewal of the local interest for the Valencian language, in which the Mystery is sung
- Development of a system providing intangible heritage the same level of protection as tangible cultural heritage



Jemaa el Fna Square, Marrakech, Morocco

- Increased cooperation between local associations NGOs and local authorities, resulting in the creation of a Commission in charge of the safeguarding of the Square.
- Measures taken to ensure the transmission of oral heritage by the organization of weekly sessions of story-telling with the cooperation of the Association Jemaa el Fna Square and a Delegation of the Ministry of Education
- Studies are being made on the possibility of prohibiting all circulation in and around the Square, in order to reduce environmental and noise pollution.

Examples (2)

Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre, India

- Official recognition of this theatre thanks to its proclamation as a Masterpiece, which was about to disappear
- Sharing of techniques and know-how among the three last families who held, in an individual and private way, the secrets to this 2000 year-old tradition.
- Increased social outreach of this theatre thanks to renewed involvement of local and national organisations
- Publicity in national and international media of the Proclamation helps make the public aware of the importance of the proclaimed cultural expression and of the need of protect it against risks of deterioration or even disappearance.

Cross-crafting, Lithuania

- the region of Prienai has decided to host the house of young masters of cross-crafting, with a view to developing and preserve the continuity of skills of this tradition.
- a considerable number of competitions and seminars, especially for children and young masters, have been organised in order to promote and develop the cross-crafting tradition



27 Ratifications by 7 December 2005

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Algeria | • Syria | • Oman |
| • Mauritius | • Republic of Korea | • Dominican Republic |
| • Japan | • Seychelles | • India |
| • Gabon | • United Arab Emirates | • Vietnam |
| • Panama | • Mali | • Peru |
| • China | • Mongolia | • Pakistan |
| • Central African Rep. | • Croatia | • Bhutan |
| • Latvia | • Egypt | • Nigeria |
| • Lithuania | | • Iceland |
| • Belarus | | |

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The Convention: Meetings of Statutory Bodies

- 10-12 May 2006: 1st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- 26-30 June: 1st session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Adoption of the Operational Directives: expected at the end of 2007
- 2008: the Convention will be fully operational

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1, rue Miollis
 75732 Paris Cedex 15
 France

Tel: 00 33 (0) 1456 84168
 Fax: 00 33 (0) 1456 85752
www.unesco.org/culture

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