



Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage through the Strengthening of National Capacities in Asia and the Pacific: Phase II

UNESCO Bangkok recruits: An evaluation specialist

Conditions of the assignment:

- **Timeframe:** Approximately 6 to 8 weeks of work, between January and April 2017
- **Duty station:** Home, with travel to Bangkok, and 2 of the participating countries
- **Type of contract:** Contract for Individual Specialist (consultant)
- **Deadline for application:** 6 January 2017

Objective

The candidate shall evaluate the implementation and results of the project in the 5 participating countries (Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Samoa and Sri Lanka) based on reports and project outputs as well as interviews with the various actors involved.

Background of the project

The project "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage through the Strengthening of National Capacities in Asia and the Pacific: Phase II" is financed by the Government of Japan. Project implementation started in April 2015 and is expected to end in April 2017.

The project was developed in the framework of UNESCO's global strategy for strengthening national capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, which is the highest priority for implementing the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It pertains to the current UNESCO Culture Sector Programme's expected result 'National capacities strengthened and utilised to safeguard intangible cultural heritage [...] through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention.'¹

The strategy follows a long-term and multi-faceted approach, supporting States in creating positive institutional and professional environments for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage present on their territories. To this end, it addresses the most urgent capacity-building needs:

- redesign of the institutional infrastructure to cater to the specific needs of ICH,
- revision of cultural and other policies and legislation,
- development of inventory methods and systems,
- development of effective safeguarding measures, and
- effective participation in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention.

¹ 38 C/5 Programme IV - Culture, Main Line of Action 2: Supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the development of cultural and creative industries, Expected Result 5

All activities within the strategy aim at fully mobilizing all stakeholders (e.g. government, civil society and communities) in the decision-making, administration and practical aspects of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on articulating policies and initiatives that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men.

For this end UNESCO has developed a comprehensive training curriculum and trained over 80 experts as so called facilitators. Today, with their help, more than 60 countries have benefitted from trainings and advisory services.

The project to be evaluated is part of the implementation of this global strategy in the Asia-Pacific region. The first phase of the regional programme for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through the strengthening of national capacities in Asia and the Pacific, funded by the Government of Japan, was implemented for 30 months starting from November 2011 to May 2014. Eight (8) countries in the Asia-Pacific Region benefitted, namely, Bhutan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste.

This second phase of the regional programme was initiated to benefit altogether 5 countries. It has reinforced the human and institutional capacities in 4 of the already-benefitting countries, and initiated a similar programme in a new country, Fiji. This second phase also initiated policy consultations in 4 of the participating countries.

The main goals of the project are:

- To support beneficiary countries in revising cultural policies and legislation and in strengthening the institutional infrastructure for the effective safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage;
- To assist beneficiary countries to meet their national obligations under the Convention, in particular with regards to inventory-making and other safeguarding measures;
- To build up national capacity, both in government institutions and in civil society, so that beneficiary countries will have a sustainable framework for safeguarding intangible heritage and implementing the Convention;
- To assist countries to benefit from the mechanisms of international cooperation established by the Convention, including International Assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

The project is overall coordinated by UNESCO Bangkok (coordination and component in Lao PDR), together with UNESCO Field Offices in Apia (for Fiji and Samoa components), Beijing (for Mongolia component), and New Delhi (for Sri Lanka component).

Purpose

The evaluation is an important and integrative part of the project to assess its relevance and effectiveness in the context of UNESCO's global capacity-building strategy for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Its purpose is therefore two-folded:

1. It shall contribute to a better understanding of how and to what extent the project has achieved its objective of supporting 5 countries in building institutional and professional environments for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
2. It shall determine the extent to which the project is aligned with the priorities of UNESCO and those of the benefitting national counterparts (government, civil society, community).

The evaluation will take stock of the achievements and challenges and identify lessons learned. It will make recommendations on how to sustain the achievements and respond to persisting and emerging capacity building needs in the Asia-Pacific region, also advising more generally on possible future orientations of the global capacity-building strategy.

Scope

This evaluation will consider project effectiveness, relevance, efficiency and sustainability. The following questions may guide the inquiry and may find different answers in the different countries:

Project effectiveness: immediate effects of programme outputs on the target groups and beyond:

- To which extent were the project's objectives reached? What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives? A results framework is available in the project document.
- To what extent have the workshop participants and responsible national counterparts been satisfied with the project? Has the project made a difference to their engagement in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and how do they use their acquired knowledge? Do the replies vary according to country and groups of participants (e.g. technicians, community members, decision makers, etc.)? If so, what are the reasons for this variation?
- To what extent has the regional coordination affected the project's effectiveness and outcomes?
- Has the language barrier, identified as an obstacle under phase 1, been adequately addressed in the project?
- How would you describe the quality of the project's public communication and visibility?

Project relevance: alignment with UNESCO's priorities and policies

- To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid?
- Have the programme objectives addressed identified needs of the target groups in respect to ICH safeguarding? Were the workshops adequately tailored to the needs identified in each country? Did the activities and outputs address the problems identified?
- Is the project consistent with the 2003 Convention's global capacity-building strategy and UNESCO's regular programme and medium-term strategy (C/5 and C/4)? Does it contribute to international development goals? Does UNESCO have a comparative advantage in designing and implementing this project?
- From the evaluator's point of view, which are the main **strengths and weaknesses** of the project?
- Which **lessons** may be drawn from the project for future capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Asia-Pacific?

Project efficiency: use of resources to generate planned outputs:

- Have **funds** been used in an efficient way? Could the activities have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity? On the other hand, could more activities have been delivered without reducing their quality and quantity?
- Have UNESCO's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanism adequately performed the function of delivery?
- Have the activities been delivered in a timely manner?

Sustainability of the results:

- What is the likelihood that the benefits from the programme will be maintained for a reasonable period of time after closure of the project?
- How developed is the national or institutional ownership for the capacity building and ICH safeguarding to pursue the activities? Do the partner institutions have the financial capacity to maintain and expand in particular community-based inventorying?

Methodology

The evaluation will be based on an analysis of different reports and workshop evaluations, news clips, and training materials that were produced and adapted in the participating countries.

Further to an analysis of these documents, the evaluation shall conduct interviews with a selection of different participating stakeholder groups (government, civil society and community), maximum 6 facilitators delivering the capacity-building services, and the project coordination and backstopping teams at UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO Bangkok and other Field Offices. The interviews will be held face-to-face and/or using communication technology (Skype, phone, email etc.).

The assignment includes country visits to 2 participating countries. Furthermore, a visit to a pilot community may be envisioned to enrich the evaluation of the ICH-inventorying exercise. The evaluator shall also participate in the global workshop on the ICH Global capacity-building strategy to be held in Bangkok from 7 to 10 March 2017.

Key tasks

The individual expert to conduct the evaluation will work closely with the project coordinator under the supervision of the Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok.

The individual expert will be asked to assume the following tasks:

- Conduct a desktop study to assess the project's documents,
- Undertake a mission to Bangkok and 2 participating countries,
- Conduct interviews with the different stakeholders and project partners, and
- Prepare (1) an inception report, (2) an intermediate report and (3) a final evaluation report, indicated as expected deliverables.

Profile requirements

- 5-7 years of professional experience in results-based project evaluation, preferably in the field of capacity-building programme and/or culture and development;
- Knowledge of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will be an asset;
- Capability to formulate indicators for monitoring; and
- Excellent spoken and writing skills in English; good competence in a language of one of the participating countries is an advantage.

Expected deliverables and schedule

The assignment should start as soon as possible in January 2017.

The consultant will submit to UNESCO the following deliverables on the indicate dates:

31 January 2017	An inception report of approximately 3 to 5 pages in English, which contains <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Intervention logic of the programme, based on desk study,- Evaluation plan, containing the proposed data collection methods and data sources to be used for addressing each evaluation question/dimension, and- List of reviewed documents.
15 February 2017	Stakeholder review (including distance interviews and in-country visits)
10 March 2017	Preliminary findings to be presented during the Bangkok meeting
30 March 2017	A draft evaluation report not exceeding 30 pages in English, recalling <ul style="list-style-type: none">- objectives of the evaluation,- methodology,- results,- conclusions,- lessons learnt and- annexes. The draft report will be presented to the project team and selected stakeholders during a Skype conference.
30 April 2017	Final evaluation report with comments integrated

How to apply

Please send your application by **Friday 6 January 2017** (COB) to Vanessa Achilles, programme officer, Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok: v.achilles@unesco.org

- updated CV
- a letter highlighting your most relevant experiences for this assignment
- expected remuneration

Note: UNESCO rules and regulations will apply for the calculation of mission fees.