

VIII. Pending Issues & Urgent Needs

Q1. Is any of the intangible cultural heritage in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation? What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific. (Please include the name of the particular heritage, location, problems encountered, etc.)

Yes, following ICH elements of my country are in danger of disappearance and are on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding of Mongolia.

1. Mongol Tuuli: Mongolian epic
2. Traditional music of the Tsuur
3. Melodies for coaxing the animals
4. Coaxing ritual for baby camels
5. Bii Biilgee: Mongolian traditional folk dance
6. Mongolian traditional practices of the worshipping of sacred sites
7. The art of steel carving
8. Traditional art of book-making
9. Traditional wedding and feast rites and customs of Mongolian various ethnic groups (Borjigin feast, Bayad, Durvud, Zakhchin, Kazakh, Uriankhai and Buriad wedding)
10. Traditional repertoire of folk music, playing manner (playing manners of khuur, ekil, toovshuur melody, qui of dombor, flute and trumpet manner)
11. Mongolian traditional Tsam dance
12. Mongolian calligraphy
13. Traditional forms of puzzle games

14. Circular breathing technique of the Limbe performance
15. Performance of the Mongolian epic of Jangar
16. Mongolian traditional contortion

Q2. What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific.

Researches and studies suggest that globalization, urbanization and modernization are the main factors impacting the ICH of Mongolia in following ways:

- Due to the increase of socio-economic and language globalization and tourism boom, the strength and importance of the mother tongue is likely to weakening gradually, which could show major influence to the degradation and further ignorance of the ICH of Mongolia. Authentic traditional culture, folklore, oral and intangible heritage are in process of evolution to be ‘manufactured culture’ for commercial purpose through the practice of modern mass media, and globalized culture and arts, which leads young generation to dramatically disinterest and ignore the traditional culture and intangible heritage. This is one of the major concerns in terms of the safeguarding of the ICH.
- Even though deciding location to reside and work is individual rights and freedom, internal migration and unintended influx to urban centers have caused to shrink the number of bearers and transmitters of traditional social practices, rituals, folklore performing arts, traditional knowledge base and technology in rural areas. It is truly concerning that the trend might even to continue further. In such context Mongolian education contents, particularly curriculums and programs of all-level education courses visibly lack roles of Mongolian traditional cultural heritage and even contain no topics related to intangible cultural heritage.
- Along with increased economic globalization, gaps between wealthy developed countries and low-income developing countries, and gaps between urban centers and rural areas have been expanding that resulted more concerns over safeguarding and maintaining intangible cultural heritage, supporting their bearers and encouraging them to transmit their outstanding talents and skills, as well as strengthening financing sources for such initiatives.

- In response to these, Mongolia has been undertaking considerable measures. For instance, National Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mongolia, and National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding of Mongolia was approved by the ordinance No.293 of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia on July 08, 2009; whereas the 'Regulations on Identifying and Registering Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers', 'Membership Components of the National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' and 'Rule of National Council for Identifying Intangible Cultural Heritage and its Bearers' were approved by the ordinance No.414 of the Minister on October 02, 2009 respectively. Relevant institutions, such as the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Center of Cultural Heritage and local organizations are undertaking various measures for the implementation of the aforementioned documents. Since ratification of the UNESCO Convention 13 intangible cultural heritage elements were inscribed on the UNESCO Lists from Mongolia, including 7 of them on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and 6 of them on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Q3. What are the pending issues for safeguarding ICH in your country that you have found through interviews and the field survey?

Through the interviews, I could notice the financial provision and rewarding mechanism for the ICH bearers are the number one challenge for the safeguarding of ICH, as each and every resource people addressed these issues. Coherently, when thinking about the financial issues, this is something more to do with the policy makers as they apportion the state budget, thus personally, I think it is essentially important to raise particularly their awareness on the ICH and its vital significance to survive as a nation in the globalizing era. So that the ICH and its bearers will be rewarded and financed by the government, and thus get under the State patronage.

Also, inter-sectoral cooperation and collaboration for the safeguarding of ICH seems to be insufficient, which causes the inefficient result of the activities and actions taken for the safeguarding of the ICH. Therefore, there should be some

kind of encouragement to strengthen then cooperative spirits among the various stakeholders

Q4. What kind of problems and difficulties were encountered during the safeguarding projects?

- The legal background for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage is still imperfect
- Financial resource on the safeguarding activities is insufficient, besides the rewarding system for the bearers of the ICH hasn't been formed yet
- General awareness on the intangible cultural heritage is low
- Urbanization, globalization process leads the whole society to dramatic change, so that the traditional nomadic culture, intangible heritage and customs are threatened to disappear and be forgotten.
- Low social recognition and reputation of the bearers impact them to deactivate for various activities for the promotion, enhancement and transmission of the heritage.
- No adequate encouragement and rewarding for the ICH researchers, scholars and the management personnel from the government

Q5. What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?

- Draft amendments addressing the issues of 'Raising general awareness on the intangible cultural heritage and its bearers and practitioners effectively',
- 'Financial provisions from the government on the transmission of the intangible cultural heritage',
- 'Governmental provision on the regulation for financing the activities under the framework of safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage'
- Digitalization and mapping of the ICH database
- Establish community centre focusing on the safeguarding and transmitting of ICH particularly in the western region of Mongolia, where much of the crucial ICH elements of Mongolia have survived up to now;
- Organize exchange programs, tours, exhibitions, meetings in the region on the both common ICH elements and diverse elements for deepening mutual understanding and encouraging intercultural dialogue;

- Establish heritage transmission centre;
- Ensure community networking in local areas on the safeguarding of ICH;
- Strengthen the cooperation among NGOs, civil society, governmental organizations on the given issues;
- Take variety of awareness-raising activities. Variety of awareness-raising measures is to be taken in close cooperation with the mass media and technology as well.
- Providing professional cadre for the human resource capacity building for the management and administration maintenance as well as for the research and studies in the safeguarding of intangible heritage is vitally important.
- Developing complex research and studies on the ICH and its bearers is high of importance, especially nowadays..

Q6. What type of contribution and cooperation from international society is needed for the safeguarding of ICH in your country?

- Implement safeguarding programs and projects for the intangible cultural heritage elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- Professional expertise and methodology assistance is needed for the activities taken for the safeguarding of ICH
- Financial assistance is needed
- Facility and equipment assistance for building capacity for the safeguarding of ICH of Mongolia
- Systematic provision of the specialists, researchers and managers in the field of ICH is also needed.

Q7. What role do you expect ICHCAP to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region in terms of programmes, projects, etc.?

- Projects and programs on the Mongolian traditional customs, manners and practices concerning environmental protection
- Develop and implement program on the joint tour performance, concert, exhibition and other promotional activities for the outstanding and prominent

bearers and practitioners of the ICH of the Asia-Pacific region. /A complex measure to be organized in 2 countries per year/

- Facilitate and support the activities for the development and improvement and digitalization of the sustainable registration and database of the ICH of Mongolia, linking the ICH of the administrative units of Mongolia
- Support on the safeguarding measures and activities for the ICH in need of urgent safeguarding
- Support conducting the formal and non-formal trainings for the transmission of ICH
- Support the improvement of the academic research and studies on the ICH
- Support on introducing the modern means and technology for the documentation and promotional activities of the ICH

Q8. Please include any requests and/or suggestions you have on this matter.

- Safeguarding the heritage by linking it with its traditional context and customs is vitally important for the further survival and sustainability of the ICH element