



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## 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 2021  
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

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.

Maasai Cultural Heritage

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

M.C.H. Maasai Cultural Heritage

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

**NGO-90183**

#### 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: M.C.H Maasai Cultural Heritage

Address: P.O. Box 499-10400 Nanyuki-KENYA

Telephone number: +254 710 171 178  
Email address: maasaiculturalheritage@gmail.com  
Website: <http://mch-kenya.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.): Mrs.  
Family name: Laissa  
Given name: Linda  
Institution/position: Coordinator  
Address: 499-10400 Nanyuki  
Telephone number: +254718 156 173  
Email address: laissamalih@gmail.com  
Other relevant information:

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

**B.1.** *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

M.C.H. Maasai cultural heritage documentation of the traditional knowledge and cultural expressions informed the formulation of the traditional knowledge and cultural expression policy in collaboration with world intellectual property organization and government of Kenya which later transformed into traditional knowledge and cultural expression 2016 Act. We work with communities on awareness programs and documentation at the local level.

<sup>1</sup>. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

**B.2.** Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).

Not to exceed 250 words

MCH has previously worked with the national museums of Kenya and made several consultations with Kenya industrial property institute. The national museums were assisting us in designing community museums and archiving of documents and advising us on the requirements of the law. Kenya industrial property institute was in consultation on how communities could protect their cultural linked innovations. We have expertise in intellectual property law and accredited to world intellectual property intergovernmental committee with an observer status.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).

Not to exceed 250 words

We have contributed to the national action plans and build advocacy around what should be included in the periodic reports through a consortium of non-governmental organizations whereby inputs from the civil society are consolidated and send to the government through one or two organizations. We have not had this forum for the year 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**B.4** 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

Maasai cultural heritage is a community-based organization with expertise but struggling in accessing funding to facilitate its work. Through different consultation with government departments and other civil society working on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage we have attended and contributed our inputs to different processes.

**B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Maasai cultural heritage work at the grassroots level organizing communities and creating awareness on the need to document, protect and preserve all the resources related to culture and knowledge.

**B.6.** Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

Maasai cultural heritage in collaboration with indigenous communities in Laikipia and Samburu have documented traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. The objective of such documentation is to promote, protect, preserve the knowledge for use by the future generations. Using technology to promote knowledge transfer from the old members of the community who are custodian of knowledge to the young elites who are facing the challenge of disappearance of

languages and other traditional knowledge that is important for their wellbeing and development. Promotion of cultural talks during ceremonies contribute to the awareness at the community level on the intangible cultural heritage.

Conducted a community research on Laikipia Maasai indigenous knowledge of weather and climate. The research particularly analyzed the ways in which the interaction of the local landscape has with meteorological elements to determine local micro-climates. Local landscape aspects observed include geographical characteristics of the territory (such highlands, lowlands, valleys, proximity to mountains, rivers, and any other relevant aspect), soil types, ecosystems (i.e. type of vegetation, changes in biodiversity), land use (and so land policies about deforestation, livelihoods). Meteorological elements included winds, rainclouds, humidity, temperature, and others typically monitored by meteorology have. The research included specific insights on knowledge held by pastoralist women on those aspects and were undertaken upon obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous community.

**B.7.** *Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;*
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.*

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Maasai cultural heritage has documented traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and music among communities in the northern Kenya. We have digitized some of these documentations and created education programs targeting young people and mostly those in the urban setup who are detached from the community social setup. This is going to address issues of loss of language, intellectual property rights and transfer of other important knowledge to the future generation. We have programs like cultural lectures which are organized to bring in elders and the youth together during holidays to be able to share knowledge which now only exist among the old members of the society hence the need for documentation and preservation.

In this process, elders are able to identify and inform youth on all sacred sites and their importance to the community and the need for concern to protect by the whole community.

## C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization 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, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);
- b. participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);
- c. developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).

Not to exceed 250 words

Maasai cultural heritage participate annual through traditional knowledge division in Geneva at world intellectual property organization sessions on protection of intangible cultural heritage at the international level, participate in NGOs lobby groups and awareness processes on the need for governments to protect intangible cultural heritage and related resources. We also participate at the regional level in the African commission and develop networks with other African civil society groups and indigenous people's movements and encouraging community based social movements as a way to reach and empower the communities to develop the capacity to identify, protect the cultural heritage of their communities in their respective country.

## 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 Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.

Not to exceed 250 words

Not participated at the international level

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

Not to exceed 100 words

NO

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

*Not to exceed 500 words*

We can contribute services to the committee better if provided with an opportunity to interact and participate in their meetings

**E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):**

**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*

All our staff have very good command in English.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

we have ten years' experience working on the protection of the intangible cultural heritage as well as working with indigenous communities on voices of heritage in the documentation process in collaboration with some international and local universities. The American folklife centre in Washington, centre for documentary studies in duke university northern Carolina, traditional division on protection of cultural heritage at WIPO in Geneva. The national museums of Kenya.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Through our advisor and the founder of the organization he has worked with the UN for many years and he has experience in this.

**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*

Three of our staffs could draft such texts in English, English has been their command language from primary schools to the universities.

**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*

In all our international participation processes, we link what is affecting communities with the international discussions and be able to develop a policy advocacy agenda. This is also how we influence at the national level to ensure different regimes take into account protection and observe human rights at all levels.

## F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

community capacity building and Conducted a community research on east Africa Maasai indigenous knowledge of weather and climate and how it affects or inform their mobility.

## G. 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

## H. Signature

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

Name: John Tingoi

Title: Chairman

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Signature:

