**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Electronic Bureau consultation**

**24 February to 10 March 2017**

**Item 2:**

**Examination of requests for  
international assistance up to US$100,000**

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| **Summary**  Paragraph 49 of the Operational Directives provides that requests up to US$100,000 are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee. The present document includes an overview of two requests that the Secretariat treated, together with draft decisions concerning each request. The Bureau is asked to decide on those requests through electronic consultation.  **Decision required:** paragraph 7 |

1. As stipulated in Article 20 of the Convention, International Assistance may be granted to States Parties for purposes relating to: the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding; the preparation of inventories in the sense of Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention, in support of programmes, projects and activities undertaken at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; and for any other purpose that the Committee may deem necessary. In conformity with paragraph 47 of the Operational Directives, International Assistance requests up to US$100,000 (except requests for preparatory assistance) can be submitted at any time. Paragraph 49 further provides that requests up to US$100,000 are examined and approved by the Bureau of the Committee.
2. **Overview of the present requests**
3. The Bureau is asked to examine and decide on the following two completed requests:

| **Draft Decision** | **Requesting State** | **Title** | **Amount requested** | **File no.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12.COM 1.BUR 2.1 | Colombia | Safeguarding of the Traditional Knowledge for the Protection of Sacred Natural Sites in the Territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí, Vaupes Province, Colombia | US$25,000 | 01224 |
| 12.COM 1.BUR 2.2 | Uganda | Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda | US$97,582 | 01310 |

1. In conformity with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, the Secretariat assessed the completeness of the requests. However, considering the importance of International Assistance for achieving the Convention’s purpose of international cooperation, the Secretariat provided support to one of the two requesting States in improving its request through a comprehensive and detailed letter that indicated that information was missing or insufficient. The other request was considered complete from the outset.
2. The requests under question are available online for the Bureau’s consultation, in English and French, at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/12.com-bureau>, together with the preceding versions and the Secretariat’s letter requesting additional information. The following table summarizes the history of the revisions that took place to prepare the requests put forward for examination by the Bureau.

| **Requesting State and file no.** | **History of the request to be examined by the Bureau** |
| --- | --- |
| Colombia 01224 | Second version submitted by the State, replying to a letter requesting additional information from the Secretariat |
| Uganda 01310 | First version submitted by the State |

1. In accordance with paragraph 48 of the Operational Directives, States Parties were informed about the possible examination dates of their requests. As also provided in the Operational Directives, the Secretariat shall communicate the decisions of the Bureau concerning the granting of assistance within two weeks following the decision.
2. As previously requested by the Bureau, for International Assistance up to US$100,000, the Secretariat forwards each request to the Bureau together with a draft decision incorporating the Secretariat’s assessment of how it responds to the eligibility and selection criteria set out in Chapter I of the Operational Directives.
3. **Draft Decisions**
4. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to adopt the following decisions:

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 1.BUR 2.1

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 1.BUR/2, as well as International Assistance request no. 01224,
3. Takes note that Colombia has requested International Assistance for a project entitled **Safeguarding of the Traditional Knowledge for the Protection of Sacred Natural Sites in the Territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí, Vaupes Province, Colombia**:

The project is aimed at safeguarding the knowledge associated with the stewardship of sacred sites of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí settled in the Pirá Paraná River, in south-eastern Colombia. Inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2011, their traditional knowledge is an organic system that seeks to maintain the balance between humans and nature. According to this ancestral wisdom, the Pirá Paraná forms the heart of a large area, whose sacred sites contain vital spiritual energy that nurtures all living beings in the world. Factors such as mining policies or the emigration of young people from these cultural spaces have an impact on their lifestyle and constitute serious threats to the viability of this knowledge system, particularly relating to the management of natural resources and sacred sites. A central component of the Special Safeguarding Plan for the traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí was an endogenous research programme conducted by the Association of Captains and Traditional Indigenous Authorities of the Pirá Paraná (ACAIPI) in close cooperation with the Colombian non-governmental organization, Gaia Amazonas, and supported by the Ministry of Culture between 2011 and 2013. Implemented by Gaia Amazonas, the present project is a continuation of this initiative, which, due to budgetary constraints, no longer enjoys such support from governmental resources. Specific objectives of the programme are to facilitate the transmission of the traditional knowledge from knowledge-holders to young generations as well as to document sacred sites present in the Yuruparí territory. Planned activities to achieve the project objectives include fieldwork conducted by indigenous youth groups in the most significant sacred sites, the processing and systematization of the information collected, and the publication of six bilingual booklets.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the local level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Colombia requested an allocation of US$25,000 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides that from the information provided in file no. 01224, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1**: The request seeks financial support for an endogenous research programme already underway. The programme was designed and implemented by the Association of Captains and Traditional Indigenous Authorities of the Pirá Paraná (ACAIPI) and in particular by its highest authority, the Assembly of the Traditional Authorities, which brings together the senior knowledge-holders of each ethnic group and the captains (leaders) of each of the communities. Having already developed their own endogenous research protocol, communities, especially their young members, will be involved through ACAIPI with each stage of the project, including its regular evaluation;

**Criterion A.2**: Although the total amount of assistance requested and the budget per activity appear to be appropriate for the scope of the project and its expected results, the level of detail provided for all the expenditure lines is not sufficient to assess whether all the budgeted amounts are justified;

**Criterion A.3**: The proposed activities are described in detail and articulated in a logical sequence, from the inventory work in the sacred sites identified, including the selection of the participants, to the processing of information, translation and systematization and the development of six bilingual booklets intended to serve as guidelines in the development of educational activities led by community teachers in both elementary and secondary schools;

**Criterion A.4**: As part of a long-term strategy, the project results are likely to last beyond the end of the assistance: the emphasis on young members of indigenous communities and on research carried out by the communities themselves could have lasting effects on both the transmission of traditional knowledge and the promotion of respect for them and on the communities' capacities to exercise stewardship over sacred sites and to decide on safeguarding measures affecting their cultural heritage;

**Criterion A.5**: The State will share 32 per cent of the overall budget of the project for which the International Assistance is requested, while together ACAIPI and Gaia Amazonas Foundation will cover 13 per cent;

**Criterion A.6**: Throughout the project, not only will the younger generations gain a better understanding of the traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí and alternative methods of transmission will be strengthened, but the capacities of the community as a whole to safeguard its cultural heritage and to draw on it as a tool for territorial and environmental management will be reinforced. The project should also contribute to the strengthening of ACAIPI’s project management capacities;

**Criterion A.7**: Colombia has never implemented any activities financed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is local in scope while involving cooperation between the local communities’ representative association and the Colombian Ministry of Culture;

**Paragraph 10(b):** By helping to position ACAIPI as the main actor in safeguarding traditional knowledge of the jaguar shamans of Yuruparí with respect to local government entities, the project aims to improve access to local and national funding to continue the implementation of the Special Safeguarding Plan, to which the Ministry of Culture can provide technical and methodological support;

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Colombia for a project entitled **Safeguarding of the Traditional Knowledge for the Protection of Sacred Natural Sites in the Territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí, Vaupes Province, Colombia** and grants an amount of US$25,000 to the State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to a detailed work plan and the budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund which is specific enough to provide a sufficient justification of the expenditures and to allow the actual expenses to be matched directly against the projections;
3. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 1.BUR 2.2

The Bureau,

1. Recalling Chapter V of the Convention and Chapter I of the Operational Directives,
2. Having examined Document ITH/17/12.COM 1.BUR/2, as well as International Assistance request no. 01310,
3. Takes note that Uganda has requested International Assistance for a project entitled ‘**Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda**’:

In line with Uganda’s National Cultural Policy, which underscores the importance of intangible cultural heritage, the three-year project is aimed at raising awareness of a core group of twenty management and academic staff from four universities in Gulu, Kampala, Nkozi and Fort Portal, on the relevance of intangible cultural heritage in Uganda’s current development context. For the moment, there are only isolated initiatives in some formal education programmes on African or Heritage studies, which are at best included in broader courses on sociology or rural development. With limited heritage education in academic institutions, there is a capacity gap in terms of skilled personnel that has led to a relatively low priority for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in policy-making and implementation. To begin to address this situation, the project proposes producing various pedagogical materials and a higher education course on intangible cultural heritage and development, and that academic staff be trained in delivering such a course. Beyond the direct beneficiaries at these four universities, the project is expected to have an impact on a wider community through the organization of a symposium for universities across Uganda to publicize the course outline and the provision of a resource book for academic personnel involved in delivering the course. Coordinated by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU), a non-governmental organization based in Kampala and accredited to act in an advisory capacity to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the project will be overseen by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the four universities, including student representatives.

1. Further takes note that this assistance concerns support for a project carried out at the national level aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in accordance with Article 20 (c) of the Convention, and that it takes the form of the granting of a donation in line with Article 21 (g) of the Convention;
2. Also takes note that Uganda requested an allocation of US$97,582 from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for the implementation of the project;
3. Decides thatfrom the information provided in file no. 01310, the request responds as follows to the criteria for granting International Assistance given in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the Operational Directives:

**Criterion A.1:** The community concerned by the request is mainly composed of the management and academic staff of departments at four universities that already offer or plan to introduce courses related to intangible cultural heritage. In this sense, this differs from communities who create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage and whose widest possible participation in safeguarding activities States shall endeavour to ensure, in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention. However, the main beneficiaries did participate in the design of the project and will actively participate in its implementation, evaluation and follow-up through a steering committee;

**Criterion A.2:** The proposed budget provides sufficient detail both at the level of the activities and on each line of expenditure for the amount requested to be considered appropriate;

**Criterion A.3:** From the study of the existing academic offer on intangible cultural heritage to the training of academic staff on how to use the course module on intangible cultural heritage and development, activities are proposed in a logical and well-articulated sequence. The duration of the project also seems to be sufficiently long for the project outputs to be the result of genuine participatory processes with the academic staff who will use them;

**Criterion A.4**: In addition to the four universities which, beyond the end of the project, will not only be equipped with training materials but also with staff trained to give courses on intangible cultural heritage and development, activities such as the symposium for universities across the country or annual lectures in each of the participating universities are likely to lead to a greater appreciation of the importance of intangible cultural heritage in its relationship to development by academic staff and to greater teaching skills on this subject;

**Criterion A.5**: The submitting State will share four per cent of the total amount of the project for which International Assistance is requested;

**Criterion A.6**: The assistance clearly aims to build on the capacities of the academic staff from the four participating universities to appreciate the importance of intangible cultural heritage and its relation to development and to deliver training modules on this subject. By extension, the assistance will help to strengthen the capacities of the students at these universities to understand and appreciate such a link; although the request does directly address the capacities of those communities who create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage and whose widest possible participation in safeguarding activities States shall endeavour to ensure, in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, an educational investment in students, as proposed in the request, would in the long term lead to strengthened capacities in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at the national level;

**Criterion A.7:** From 2013 to 2015, Uganda benefited from financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund amounting to US$216,000 for the implementation of a project entitled ‘Inventorying the intangible cultural heritage of four communities in Uganda’. Since 2015, Uganda has also benefitted from financial assistance amounting to US$24,990 for the implementation of a project entitled ‘Safeguarding and promotion of Bigwala, gourd trumpet music and dance of Busoga Kingdom in Uganda’. Uganda has also benefitted twice from preparatory assistance for the elaboration of nomination files to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, both culminating in inscriptions. For completed projects, Uganda has provided the work stipulated by the terms of reference of the corresponding signed contracts, in line with UNESCO’s regulations;

**Paragraph 10(a)**: The project is national in scope and involves national implementing partners such as the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO and the Department of Culture and Family Affairs of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development;

**Paragraph 10(b):** The project is expected to trigger an increase in the number of courses on intangible cultural heritage at universities and other higher education institutions and thus an increase in the number of graduates with expertise in the field of safeguarding. Thanks to the availability of this greater number of trained academics and graduates, the interest of decision-makers and the general public may increase, as may support to similar initiatives;

1. Approves the International Assistance request from Uganda for a project entitled **Promoting intangible cultural heritage education in institutions of higher learning in Uganda** and grants an amount of US$97,582 to the State Party to this end;
2. Requests that the Secretariat reach an agreement with the requesting State Party on the technical details of the assistance, paying particular attention to the detailed budget of the activities to be covered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. In so doing, it encourages the State Party to consider ways of engaging with communities, within the meaning of Article 15 of the Convention, in the implementation of the project, including in the definition of course content and the revision of teaching materials, and to revise the work plan and budget within the limits of the amount granted, where applicable;
3. Invites the State Party to use the ICH-04-Report Form when reporting on the use of the assistance provided.