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INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND
PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary state party: Sudan

Project title	Inventory and Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Republic of the Sudan
Reporting period	February 2017 until September 2018.
Budget	Total budget is US \$ 174,480
Implementing agency	(Previously) the experts panel for inventory and documentation of intangible cultural heritage (currently), the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages-Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities (NCCH & PNL).
Implementing Partners	1. Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture. 2. Ministries of Culture in the states of Kordofan and Blue Nile. 3. Local communities in Kordofan and Blue Nile states.
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Background and rationale:

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in its resolution NO (9.com9 .c.2) approved the assistance request submitted by the Sudanese Ministry previously known as the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to allocate the sum of U.S.D 174.480 to finance the project: Documentation and Inventory of ICH in the Republic of Sudan. Whereas the ICH Safeguarding Intergovernmental Committee Bureau in its resolution (10.com.2.bur4) has approved the amended request in response to the resolution adopted by the committees.

Kordofan and Blue Nile states selected to implement the project because of many reasons. First, those states were subject to conflicts and wars for more than fifty years. This situation has forced individuals, groups and communities living there to flee their home villages and migrate to other states as IDPs or to outside Sudan. This has influenced the intangible cultural heritage of those groups and put it in the risk of being lost. The majority of the groups of Kordofan and Blue Nile states are living in remote and poor areas with no financial or technical capabilities to safeguard and maintain their own heritage.

Since the 1970s, the Ministry of Culture attempted to safeguard the heritage of those areas, but these attempts were limited due to scarce financial resources and the absence of specialized individuals from among those communities. With the increase of risks and threats, there was a need for international assistance. Hence, the Ministry of Culture submitted an international assistance request to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in order to build the capacities of the local communities and empower them to develop their ICH inventory and safeguarding their intangible cultural heritage and to raise their awareness of its importance.

In the past, there were many attempts to collect and document intangible cultural heritage in Kordofan and Blue Nile areas. Since 1918 the British administrators published many articles and reports about Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the famous periodical “Sudan Notes and Records”. Some valuable writings published during post-independence era. This included the research done by the Afro-Asian Studies Institute of the University of Khartoum. One of these studies was conducted by Mohammed Haroon Kafi to explore (Kigoor) or spiritual leader in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan State. Sudan National Ethnographic Museum (established 1935) has conducted organized fieldworks. Since 1970, the Ministry of Culture has also organized fieldworks in the Blue Nile State that resulted in a number of audio and videos recordings, and photographs, which were stored in the archive of the Sudanese life registration

and Documentation center.

Most of these works done during the first and second half of the 20th century. When one compares what has been collected during that period to living intangible cultural heritage of today, we can see that there is a major change in intangible cultural heritage; we can note the disappearance of many elements. This is because these areas affected by war, which led to displacing big part of the population. A fact that has negatively impacted the status of intangible cultural heritage in the area as well as other changes that affected the area due to globalization, civilization and modernization. Therefore, ICH inventory list has to be prepared for these areas and the capacities of these local communities, researchers and experts been enhanced.

After the intergovernmental committee approved the financial assistance for the project, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture formed in December 2016 a preparatory committee to supervise the implementation of the project. That was followed by the ministerial decree No (6) on the 8th of March 2017 that provided for the formation of a national experts panel for the inventory and documentation of intangible cultural heritage in Sudan. The panel members are part-time Sudanese university professors.

The regrettable delay in the execution of the project was partly due to the absence, at that time, of one body with full mandate to look after the intangible cultural heritage. After the intergovernmental committee approved the financial assistance project, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture formed in December 2016 a preparatory committee to supervise the implementation of the project. That was followed by the ministerial decree No (6) on the 8th of March 2017 for the formation of a national experts panel for the inventory and documentation of intangible cultural heritage in Sudan. The panel members are part-time Sudanese university professors. They did their best in implementing the Project and have organized three workshops and other activities (mentioned below). However, this was still less than the ambition of Sudan and behind the timetable set by the UNESCO for this Project.

Things improved and work went faster when the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of National Language has been declared in 2018 as the official body responsible for all aspects related to this project. The assistance provided by ICH Safeguarding Intergovernmental Committee has helped accelerating the steps towards establishing this national institution to oversee cultural heritage and follow up the implementation of the 2003 ICH Convention.

In order to push the Project forward, the Ministry of Culture submitted in 2016 a proposal to the Council of Ministers to establish the national council for cultural heritage. In 2017, the President of Sudan issued the presidential decree No (3) to establish the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of National Languages (NCCH & POL). On May 14th 2018, the Council of Ministers issued the resolution No (83) to appoint the general secretary of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of National Language. On May 14th 2018, the

Council of Ministers issued the resolution No (232) for the year 2018 to form the board of directors of (NCCH & POL). The State Minister at the Council of Ministers issued the resolution No (12) for the year 2018 on June 14th to allocate a government house as ahead quarter of (NCCH & POL). Thus, the establishment of the first national body with a legal personality and full mandate to coordinate the work of the different departments and units of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities responsible for the cultural heritage. Further, the Council is responsible for all tasks and works of inventories, monitoring and safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage as well as the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Sudan.

Objectives and results attained

Goal 1: Development of an ICH Strategy and Inventory Lists:

1. Conducting the initial survey of the elements of intangible cultural heritage in the target states: The first phase of the survey has been fully achieved. It aims at "identifying the available literature on the subject", which include documents, university theses, books, photographs, audio and video recordings, etc, as well as all literature and material related to the intangible cultural heritage of the five target states of Kordofan, Blue Nile and Sinnar. Seven researchers were assigned to monitor the literature and works carried out by the academic institutions, regulatory and media institutions related to the intangible cultural heritage, in addition to the participation of (5) directors of culture for inventory and monitoring in the target states (Kordofan and Blue Nile) during January and February Of the year 2018. The survey covered:
 - Archives of the Folklore Department of the Institute of Afro-Asian Studies, University of Khartoum.
 - Library of the Institute of Afro-Asian Studies, University of Khartoum.
 - Sudan Library of University of Khartoum.
 - Archive of the Sudanese Life Registration and Documentation Center of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities.
 - Sudan National Archives.
 - Media Department at the dam's implementation unit.
 - General Secretariat of the project: Kadogli, the capital of the Sudanese Heritage.
 - Sudanese general radio and TV Corporation.
 - Participants from the states provided insights on some of the work carried out in their states in the hope that they would be collected later.

The survey resulted in monitoring many books, research and audiovisual recordings made in previous times by experts and specialists in the field of intangible cultural heritage in the concerned states.

2. The first Consultation Meeting: Evaluation Workshop for the Survey: An evaluation workshop was conducted to evaluate the work of the preliminary survey of the inventory of elements of intangible cultural heritage on April 19, 2018. In this workshop the members of the Experts Panel and (7) researchers responsible for conducting the survey in addition to two participants from each of the five target states (Kordofan and Blue Nile states) have taken part.
3. Preparation of the draft document of the National Strategy for the Inventory and Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage:

- Second consultative meeting: A two-day meeting (8-9 May 2018) to discuss the draft of the National Strategy for the Inventory and Documentation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sudan. This meeting was prepared by the Experts Panel, which was attended by two of those working in the field of intangible cultural heritage from the target states (five states), in addition to ten experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The meeting held at the Hall of Elkheer Hashem, at the Ministry of Culture. The first day was devoted to enlighten menton draft strategy. The discussion focused on the method of identification of heritage elements and familiarity with the laws and regulations governing the work, with the participation of state representatives, members of the expert's panel, experts invited from among the academicians and practitioners in the field of intangible cultural heritage. On the second day, discussion sessions held for participants in working groups, to discuss elements of intangible cultural heritage that been nominated to the inventory and to comment on the draft strategy. Participants indorsed the draft document.
- Discussion of the National Strategy Document: The first day of the Workshop "Preparation of Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage" was devoted to the discussion of the National Strategy document, prepared by the expert's panel entitled "Towards a National Strategy for the Inventory and Documentation of Elements of ICH in Sudan". And the proposals made by experts and participants at the second consultative meeting, organized by the panel to draw on the views of the participants from the States and the experts invited for this purpose. The document was circulated among the participants whom some of them made observations. The panel commit itself to consider these observations in the presence of UNESCO expert, Prof. Abdel Rahman Ayoub.

Goal 2:Capacity Building for Decision-makers and Culture Directors in the States of Sudan:

1. Organizing a workshop to shed light on the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003

The workshop was organized at the Sharjah Hall, Khartoum University, for two days, from 12-13 February 2018. The workshop aimed to furnish the decision makers in the various states of Sudan, with information about ICH Convention of 2003. The scientific papers (7 papers) presented at the workshop focused on the concept of intangible cultural heritage and reviewed UNESCO's efforts to safeguard this heritage for the well-being of peoples and sustainable development. The experts provided a comprehensive introduction and explanation of the Convention and its operational directives. The workshop also presented local and global examples of elements of the intangible cultural heritage.

The workshop was attended by (16) directors of culture in the various states of Sudan, plus a number of experts and academicians specialized in the fields of intangible cultural heritage, in addition, a 37 participants take part in the workshop, The participants presented an initial inventory of cultural heritage elements in all states of Sudan.

2. Implementation of the training workshop on the preparation of elements of intangible

cultural heritage lists in the Republic of Sudan:

This workshop was held at the Police Club from 25 June to 3 July 2018. The first day of the workshop was devoted to discussing the national strategy document prepared by the panel of experts. The workshop lasted for nine days with the participation of the UNESCO expert, Prof. Abdul Rahman Ayoub and a number of experts and specialists in the field of cultural heritage in Sudan. During this period, participants were provided with the scientific and practical knowledge that enables them to collect information on ICH elements, with the participation of local communities, in order to identify, introduce, inventory and prepare their own lists in the five target states.

The scientific program covered a variety of topic including: "Analytical reading of the Convention, how groups participate in the inventory process, methods of collecting and documenting the various elements of ICH, archiving material, field preparation for preparing inventories, collection and documentation, introducing the nomination forms for the two lists of the convention and the International assistance. The program also included a number of field visits aimed at identifying examples of intangible cultural heritage and training on how to collect information about them.

The experts presented their views on how the participants, represented their states, should be trained, then the experts were supposed to evaluate the performance of the trainees to assess whether or not they could fulfill the required tasks, according to the scientific field data collection criteria. Then they prepared the nomination lists of some elements for the representative list. The workshop characterized by the participation of a large number of trainees and participant of the five states during the consultative meeting, The trainees were enthusiastic to know everything that would help them to carry out their responsibilities concerning inventory and documenting the intangible cultural heritage in their respective states. We expect that this enthusiasm will help in the preparation of inventory lists for intangible cultural heritage, and that it will culminated by registering some elements of the cultural heritage of the various states on the Convention's lists and record of the best safeguarding practices.

Description of project implementation:

Despite the faltering start and the delay of the project, the project has achieved many direct results that helped to introduce the intangible cultural heritage and the need of safeguarding it. It also shed light on the 2003 convention and its implementation at the level of the targeted states and the rest of the Sudanese states. About 100 cadres from among the decision-makers and experts trained at different state and federal levels.

The project has also helped training many local experts and cadres who will carry out all the safeguarding measures in the future. These cadres linked to the local cultural institutions (Ministries of Culture at the States) a liaison officer for each state also appointed to facilitate work with the State Coordination Unit at the council. Permanent offices for the management of the intangible cultural heritage of the States being established to serve as local mechanism to

implement the Convention and to ensure continuity of work in the field of heritage safeguarding in the future. These units will be provided at November, with the necessary work equipment. The state Coordinators commissioned to prepare and familiarize local communities with the project of inventorying and documenting intangible cultural heritage in their areas. This done in preparation for the meetings of expert's panel and trainers plan to hold with local communities prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

On the other hand, the project has achieved many indirect goals, which are in the interest of the cultural heritage; the most notably is the formation of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the promotion of National Languages in Sudan. The States are now taking an interest in establishing local units, institutions specialized in intangible cultural heritage, many States, and local governments have expressed their willingness to assist in heritage safeguarding programs and activities in their own areas.

The project encountered some difficulties at the beginning of its implementation and caused, in one way or another, slowing pace of work in early stages and that has negatively affected the implementation of the project stages. As a result, the fieldwork put off until the arrangements related to building the administrative and technical capacities of the local cadres are completed. Among the most prominent difficulties that faced the project are :

- 1- Delaying of the International Financial Assistance Fund for the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- 2- Dependence on part time national committees, while there was no agreement on their missions and scope of work, wasted a lot of time and delayed the work.
- 3- Amendments of the membership of the committees, changing them from time to time, confused the work. More than one year has passed since the formation of these committees, and yet, no clear steps were taken in project implementation. This caused the Ministry of Culture to request a project extension until December 2018.
- 4- The delay of establishing the National Council for Cultural Heritage, which later became the body entrusted with the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and supervising its implementation.

Following the formation of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of the National Languages, the Council started acting as the body that supervises and implements the project of inventorying and documenting intangible cultural heritage in Sudan. The first serious step taken by the council to complete this work is to sign the contract of extending the project until December 2018, which was necessary to affirm the determination of Sudan to complete the project and to emphasize the seriousness of Sudan in moving forward with the implementation of the remaining goals of the project.

For the above reasons, we asked the Section of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Section of International Assistance at the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, to approve the extension of the period until the end of 2019. This will enable the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages to complete the implementation of this project. By now, a 40% of the project is completed. The remaining time of this year, will not be enough to accomplish the rest of the project. Now we are in the process of arranging and communicating with the target communities in Kordofan and Blue Nile to hold consultative meetings, and we are about to

complete training and media workshops to start safeguarding measures.

Community involvement

At this stage of implementing the project, the participants from across all communities and groups living in the project areas, held meetings to carry out a number of activities: including consultative meetings, to develop strategies of documenting intangible cultural heritage and inventories. The first meeting was to evaluate the experience of the initial survey conducted to inventory of all the literature, including published and unpublished studies, research, activities, programs and fields survey conducted in the field of intangible cultural heritage, whether that through the State ministries of culture, or universities, organizations, associations, centers, federations, unions or museums. The second consultative meeting discussed the draft national strategy for inventorying and documenting the intangible cultural heritage in Sudan, while the third meeting formed a workshop to finalize the strategy of the documentation of ICH and the preparation of the inventory lists. The meetings were attended by a large number of representatives of various communities, groups and institutions working in the field of intangible cultural heritage at the targeted areas of Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

There were 40% females and 60% males participated in the development of the strategy plan, with the participation of the National Commission for Education Science and culture, as well as employees of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities at the federal level. This took place at the premises of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages.

To ensure the community involvement in the implementation of the project, a coordination mechanism should consist of members and groups of heritage bearers and individuals, who create safeguard and transfer ICH, as well as researchers experts, centers of expertise and research institutes, which concerned by intangible cultural heritage, in each of the five states of Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The community was also involvement through the training workshops held to build the capacity of the target communities. Two training workshops carried out; the first was on the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding ICH for the year 2003, held in Khartoum and intended by decision-makers at the states Ministries of Culture. During that workshop, cultural directors of the targeted states participated, plus the representatives of organizations, associations, centers and federations as well as researchers in the field of intangible cultural heritage. The second workshop was on how to prepare inventories of the intangible cultural heritage, held in Khartoum by 38 participants, they selected mainly from among cultural and academic institutions, and associations from the civil society concerned with some elements of building heritage as well as ICH. These participants were consisted of groups representing the five concerned states of Kordofan and Blue Nile. They joined by representatives of two civil associations, three researchers affiliated with heritage center, members of the National Heritage Commission, and a number of staff of the ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities who work for the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages as well as one female representative of UNESCO national commission. The community involvement in the

next project phases will be through meetings with local communities, to introduce the Convention of ICH Safeguarding. Training sessions will be held also in the preparation of inventories of the intangible cultural heritage, in order to pave the way for the collection phase in Kordofan and Blue Nile states, which will be carried out by local teams. A training course for media professionals will be organized, in order to raise the awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage, the media representatives are also members of the local communities.

Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

The sustainable gains of this project are reflected in the training and capacity building of community-based cadres, on how to implement the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH. In addition, sensitizing local communities on the importance of intangible cultural heritage and training male & female youth, for collecting and documenting the heritage of their own communities, beside, training media professionals in local communities, for introducing group's heritage, by creating programs in local channels and radio stations. All these activities contribute to the efforts of the inventory of ICH, prepare and maintain heritage lists, conduct research and studies, raise awareness of the importance of the heritage and transfer it to the next generations.

In addition, coordinators been appointed to establish offices in the above-mentioned five states, worked in the field of intangible cultural heritage, collecting and documenting it. Some institutions are being established to coordinate between the States and the Center in the field of heritage inventory. One of the most important steps in this project is the purchase of necessary documentation equipment; they are owned by the offices concerned with intangible cultural heritage in these states. The intangible cultural heritage department of the target states provided with video and photographic cameras, as well as laptop and desktop computers. In addition, the Strategy for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Sudan has been drafted.

Lessons learned

The main lessons learned from this project are:

1. Draft and develop a national policy and prepare a strategic plan in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Sudan.
2. Training on the main concepts of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003.
3. How to prepare inventories of intangible cultural heritage.
4. Acquire the skill show to prepare nomination lists for the inscription of ICH elements.
5. Learning how to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.
6. Learning how to fulfill the requirements of international assistance in the safeguarding of intangible heritage.

Annexes

1. To establish the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages in the Presidential Decree No. (35) For the year 2017.
2. Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 83 of 2018 appointing the Secretary General of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of National Languages.
3. Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 232 of 2018 to form the National Council for

Cultural Heritage and the Promotion of National Languages.

4. The resolution of the Cabinet State Minister No. (12) for the year 2018 to allocate the headquarters of the Council.

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Asaad Abd Elrahman Awadallah Abd Elrahman

Capacity: Secretary General of the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages

Date: 13 October 2018

Signature: