

## VII. Pending Issues & Urgent Needs

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### **Q1 Is any of the Intangible cultural heritage in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation?**

The intangible cultural heritage in Linguistic and communications tool domain is now endangered. At least 14 ethnic minority languages in Thailand are considered as the intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding such as Mok, Mon, Urak Lawoi, Kensiw, Thavung. Because many endangered languages are only spoken, no written texts exist. Moreover, people who can speak in endangered ethnic minority language have less than 10 persons in each community.

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

With rapid changes caused by global socioeconomics, modern culture, a powerful mass media, in addition to the fact that Thai language is used as official language, some languages used by ethnic minorities are threatened with extinction. Ethnic minority languages are declining with the younger generation increasingly becoming monolingual in Standard Thai.

Department of Cultural Promotion (DCP) is decided to highlight the importance of ethnic minority languages by promoting the language as one of the ICH domains. DCP expect that the young generation of ethnic language groups will be awareness and proud of their language. Furthermore, the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA) has set a team to survey and collect the spoken and written language information by working with the elder generation of the community and then educate to younger generation for preserving the language and culture of ethnic minority groups.

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

Recently Thailand has many archives in form of printed matter, picture and VDO besides, some case found in implicit knowledge of the artisan. But lack of the effective measurement and mechanism for safeguarding ICH such as developing and implementing database in digitalization materials. This ICH database should be utilized for academic and legal management. Including analysis, reference, monitoring and confirmation of Thailand identification and also preserve and protect from any infringement.

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

As a matter of fact, the traditional knowledge assessment always faces the unreliable information of each ICH item. For the reason that almost of ICH items transmit through oral history or demonstration. So, some of important contexts may be missed or changed when the time goes by. However, the assessment is an essential method for decided to preserve, restore and develop sustainable that intangible cultural heritage as well as transmit to the next generation properly.

**Q5 Please describe more than one ICH item in Thailand that is recommended to promote and raise awareness in international society in cooperation with ICHCAP**

Khon is recommended to promote and raise awareness in international society in cooperation with ICHCAP. Since Khon are many distinctive intellectual skills such as Traditional craftsmanship can be specify in Khon dressing, Khon mask, and Performing arts can be specify in dance, music, play, performance and Social practices, rituals and festive events can be specify in respect for master ceremony. On the other hand, these element is known in public but interested in particular group. Therefore, it is useful if ICHCAP kindly assist in supporting ICH documentation for help recognize and understand the transmission of this element.

**Q6 Please describe more than one ICH item in Thailand that could encourage international cooperation for ICH safeguarding.**

According to the nomination for the representative list of the intangible cultural heritage, there are some ICH elements that have already listed by 2003 UNESCO Convention for example; Mayong (Malaysia), Wayung (Indonesia) which are similar technique as Mayong and Nhung Yai in Thailand. Whereas these elements are found on the territory of more than one state party. It should be acceptable that South East Asia country has related culture and heritage because of their border in geography.

**Q7 What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?**

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