

VI. Living Human Treasures System

This has not received much discussion and this Project might provide some useful insights that could be considered.

Living human treasures are people who possess some expertise in knowledge attitude and skills to be able continue the ICH transmission to members of the community as is the practice in various parts of the country.

Solomon islands is a diverse country in terms of language and customs and most of the living human treasures would be in the provinces and they need to be identified, encouraged in order to ensure that our intangible culturaleal practices are maintained. Research and documentation of these LHT could be done on a provincial basis as this will ensure representation of the different tribes, languages and distinct cultural groupings and LHTs are represented in this diverse country.

There are also numerous ways of transmitting these ICH intangibles: by stories ,by carvings; by music, by drama, by chants and it stands to reason that we need in the various cultural groups those that command the respect of all the members of various groups to be acknowledge and registered as living human treasures (LHT).

In short, Solomon Islands needs a system of recognising these knowledgeable experts for the promotion and protection of a living numan treasures system.

Since 2008, there has been a system where provinces hold their Annual Priemier's Meetings which begin with strong cultural dances and other performances and because this is rotated around all the provinces, there is a strong sense of identity. It should be possible to have a national recognition for this through the creation of a a National Living Human Treasures Council which could corordinate the recognition of those who are experts in different aspects of ICH .This way ,Solomon Islands would have a national system which will ensure the awards are given out and recognised for the benefit of all.

Examples abound for eg. Master weaves of Tikopia and Rennel and Belona, the master carvers of the Western province, the dances of the various islands eg Isabel province, the panpipes of Western Are'are in Malaita , the builders of the artificial lagoon in the Lau Lagoon, Malaita Province, the story tellers, the house builders specific to each tribal or island grouping and the customs which go with each different grouping, the customs of magic and supernaturalism which differ from island to island, customs related to spiritual activities and dances (see: Lidimani, 2012, pages 61-66 for further examples)