

I. Safeguarding System & Policy

A. Safeguarding System

1. National Law/Act

Compiled in 551 pages, the Book of Rules and Regulations of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes the basic text, in Persian, and the main reference for the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), among the other culturally oriented organizations of the country, to deal with cultural issues, including the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

The book consists of eight chapters and ten sections, titled as follows:

- Chapter One: Rules and Regulations on ICHHTO Structure, Staffing Table, and Undertakings
- Chapter Two: Rules, Regulations, and Agreements on Cultural Heritage
 - Section 1: Rules
 - Section 2: By-laws and Decisions
 - Section 3: Other Regulations
- Chapter Three: Rules and Regulations on Tourism
 - Section 1: Rules
 - Section 2: By-laws and Decisions
 - Section 3: Other Regulations
- Chapter Four: Rules and Regulations on Handicrafts and Traditional Arts
 - Section 1: Rules
 - Section 2: By-laws and Other Regulations
- Chapter Five: Constitutions
- Chapter Six: Legal Vies and Theories
- Chapter Seven: Other Related Rules and Regulations
 - Section 1: Rules
 - Section 2: By-law and Other Regulations
- Chapter Eight: Constitutions on Councils and International Organizations

Regarding the rich collection of manifestations of the concept Intangible Cultural Heritage, the book presents comprehensive legal texts on various aspects. Notable among these, the following are but a few representative examples:

- Law on Safeguarding National Heritage
- Law on National Inscriptions
- Law on Joining of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Regulations on Holding National and International Cultural and Artistic Festivals in the Caspian Sea Region
- Regulations on Holding National and International Cultural and Artistic Festivals in the Persian Gulf Region
- Rules of Procedure for Law on Joining of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Rules of Procedure on Methods of Establishing Societies of Cultural Heritage Advocates
- Law on Social Security Insurance for Carpet Weavers and Practitioners of Other Officially Registered Handicrafts
- Decision on Exemption of 16 Handicraft Items of Holding Currency Agreements
- By-law on Rules of Procedure on Evaluating Iranian Artists, Authors and Poets
- Act on Goals and Undertakings Advocated by the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
- Law on Islamic Republic of Iran's Membership in International Organizations and Societies
- By-law on Respecting Pioneer Artists
- Overall Policies of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Sections
- National Policies on National Documentation
- Amendments on Decision on Appointing a Representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in WIPO

As well as a series of constitutions related to various interested international organizations.

2. Law of the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)

Approved, on 23 May 2011, by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Islamic Republic of Iran, the "Law of the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional

Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" was drafted after the "Agreement Between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2)" was signed by the two sides, on 28 April 2010.

Both the mentioned "Agreement" and "Law" consist of 19 articles, that cover the Centre's undertakings.

The mentioned articles follow hereunder:

Article 1
Establishment

The Government shall agree to take, in the course of the 2010-2011 biennium, any measures that may be required for the setting up in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran), as provided for under this Agreement, of a Regional Research Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, hereinafter called "the Centre".

Article 2
Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaborations between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the parties.

Article 3
Legal Status

1. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
2. The Government shall ensure that the Centre, while being associated to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, has an autonomous legal status and that it enjoys in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:
 - (a) to contract;

- (b) to institute legal proceedings;
- (c) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 4 Constitutive Act

The Constitutive Act of the Centre must include the following provisions:

- (a) a legal status granting to the Centre, under national legislation, the autonomous legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive subventions, obtain payments for services rendered and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;
- (b) UNESCO representation within its Governing Council.

Article 5 Participation

1. The Centre shall be at the service of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, and of territories as referred to in Article 33 of the 2003 Convention, that, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.
2. Member States and Associate members of UNESCO, as well as territories as referred to in Article 33 of the 2003 Convention, wishing to participate in the Centre's activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The Director of the Centre shall inform the parties to this Agreement, and other participating parties, of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 6 Objectives and Functions

1. The objectives of the Centre will be:
 - (a) to promote the 2003 Convention and its implementation in West and Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as "the Region");
 - (b) to strengthen capacities and cooperation in the Region for identifying, inventorying, documenting and studying intangible Cultural heritage in order to contribute to its safeguarding;
 - (c) to further and coordinate scientific and technical studies aimed at developing, managing and evaluating safeguarding measures for intangible cultural heritage present in the Region;

(d) to reinforce capacities in States of the Region that are Parties to the 2003 Convention for actively participating in its implementation on the regional and international level, in particular concerning shared intangible cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States concerned.

2. The functions of the Centre will be:

(e) to create and keep up to date an automated information system registering and linking governmental and non-governmental institutions, research, educational and information institutions, community organizations and individual experts involved in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the States of the Region that have expressed the wish to cooperation through the Centre;

(f) to gather and disseminate information on legal, administrative, financial and other measures taken by the States participating in the Centre with a view to safeguarding the intangible Cultural heritage present in their territory;

(g) to gather and disseminate information on safeguarding activities in the States participating in the Centre;

(h) to organize workshops and conferences in order to develop research methodologies and further studies concerning the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage as advocated in Article 13 of the 2003 Convention, including studies concerning the development of tourism that does not impair the viability of the intangible heritage, while being respectful of customary practices governing the access to this heritage;

(i) to organize workshops and seminars to identify and promote good safeguarding practices, and assist States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre to build their capacity to prepare files proposing such practices to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage established under the 2003 Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Intergovernmental Committee") for selection and further dissemination, as foreseen under Article 18 of the Convention;

(j) while maintaining a network of representatives of cultural communities, to coordinate activities aimed at awareness-raising and capacity-building among holders and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage, as advocated in the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention, so as to allow them to participate actively, in the sense of Articles 2, 11 and 15 of the Convention, in the identification, inventorying and managing of their intangible cultural heritage;

(k) to organize workshops and seminars focusing on building capacities, in States Parties to the 2003 Convention that participate in the Centre, for drafting nomination files for inscription on the two lists of the 2003 Convention and for

drafting requests and reports for submission to the Intergovernmental Committee, in particular concerning shared intangible Cultural heritage elements present in the territories of two or more of the States participating in the Centre;

(l) to cooperate and exchange information with other category 2 centres in and beyond Asia that are active in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage;

(m) to inform the Intergovernmental Committee and the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention about relevant activities in the Region and to assist as appropriate in the implementation of the 2003 Convention.

Article 7 **Governing Council**

1. The Centre shall be guided and supervised by a Governing Council, to be renewed every four years, and composed of:

(a) a representative of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization;

(b) a representative of two Member States that have sent notification, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 5, paragraph 2, above;

(c) a representative of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO;

(d) a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO;

(e) three specialists in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

2. The Governing Council shall:

(a) approve the strategy and long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;

(b) approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;

(c) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre;

(d) issue the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures of the Centre;

(e) elect the members of the Centre's Executive Board and appoint the Director of the Centre;

(f) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre, while taking into account existing and future agreements between States and institutions.

3. The Governing Council shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if summoned by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request

of the Director-General of UNESCO or of two thirds of its members.

4. The Governing Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure. For its first meeting the procedure shall be established by the Government and UNESCO.

Article 8 Executive Board

1. In order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between the sessions of the Governing Council, the standing Executive Board shall:

- (a) supervise the execution of the Centre's programmes and activities;
- (b) make recommendations to the Governing Council concerning the strategy and the long-term and mid-term programmes of the Centre;

2. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year and adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 9 Secretariat

1. The Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

2. Decisions concerning the structure and the human resources of the Secretariat will be taken by the Governing Council.

3. The Governing Council shall appoint the Director of the Centre, who should have recognized academic standing and professional experience in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Article 10 Contribution of UNESCO

1. UNESCO shall provide assistance in the form of technical contributions for the activities of the Centre in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives of UNESCO.

2. UNESCO undertakes to:

- (a) provide the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the Centre;
- (b) include the Centre in various programmes that it implements and in which the participation of the latter seems beneficial to UNESCO's and the Centre's objectives;
- (c) engage in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations;

(d) provide the Centre with relevant information on its programmes related to intangible cultural heritage.

3. In the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO's programmes and budget.

Article 11 **Contribution of the Government**

In the national Annual Budget Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran a separate budget index will be created for the Centre. The Government shall provide, through the intermediary of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, all the resources, either financial or in kind, needed for the administration and proper functioning of the Centre, including the resources needed for the staff of the Centre, for its premises, for the organization of activities of the Centre and for the organization of the meetings of the Governing Council and Executive Board. For the initial years an amount equivalent to at least US \$500,000 will be made available per year.

Article 12 **Responsibility**

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for it and shall bear no liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Agreement.

Article 13 **Evaluation**

1. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre in order to ascertain:

(a) whether the Centre makes an important contribution to the strategic goals of UNESCO;

(b) whether the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Agreement.

2. UNESCO undertakes to submit to the Government, at the earliest opportunity, a report on any evaluation conducted.

3. Following the results of an evaluation, each of the contracting parties shall have the option of requesting a revision of the contents of this Agreement or of

denouncing it, as envisaged in Articles 17 and 18. Notwithstanding this provision, the contracting parties agree to make every effort to remediate any problems identified in an evaluation before exercising the option of denunciation.

Article 14
Use of UNESCO's name and logo

1. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention "under the auspices of UNESCO".
2. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letter-headed paper and documents in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO. Once the rules for the use of the logo of the 2003 Convention will have been established, the Centre will seek to be authorized to use that logo in combination with the UNESCO logo.

Article 15
Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force upon meeting the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by UNESCO's internal regulations.

Article 16
Duration

This Agreement is concluded for a period of six years as from its entry into force, and shall be deemed renewed unless it is expressly denounced by either party as provided for in Article 18.

Article 17
Revision

The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and UNESCO.

Article 18
Denunciation

1. Each of the contracting parties shall be entitled to denounce this Agreement.

Parties undertake, however, in conformity with Article 19, to settle any dispute that may arise between them and to make every effort to avoid denunciation.

2. A denunciation shall take effect sixty days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the contracting parties to the other.

Article 19
Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute between UNESCO and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if it is not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the parties, shall be submitted for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and the third, who shall preside over the tribunal, chosen by the first two. If the two arbitrators cannot agree on the choice of the third, the appointment shall be made by the President of the International Court of Justice.
2. The Tribunal's decision shall be final.

The "Agreement" and the related "Law" were utilized to provide the Centre with a full collection of legal and procedural instruments, including its constitution, staffing table, rules of procedure, and strategy and programmes, among others.

In the course of two rounds of Governing Council meetings, the mentioned instruments were approved, and for the time being the Centre has been equipped with the legal backing it needed.

B. Cultural Policy

For decades before the establishment of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization in the 1990s, the Iranian scholars and authorities were well aware of the importance of Cultural aspects in guaranteeing sustainable development for the country. And well before the introduction of the term *Intangible Cultural Heritage* in the standard technical terminology of UNESCO, they were aware of the concept and its manifestations. A number of major Iranian projects and programmes designed and followed in the course of the mentioned period constitute witnesses in this regard; notable among these the following are worth mentioning:

1. "Iranian Linguistic Atlas" (1974-...)

A national project initialized jointly by the "Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature" and the "Iranian Armed Forces Geographical Organization" in 1970s, and, revitalized after a period of 20 years, due to an inevitable halt having occurred due to the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the war between Iran and Iraq, by the Linguistic Research Centre, affiliated to the Research Institute to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. The project is being updated and followed in the form of a computational linguistic atlas of the country.

Among the various features of the project, a large inventory of more than 40,000 linguistic interviews is worth mentioning. The interviews have been gathered from a major number of the villages scattered over the territory. The linguistic material is being transcribed, using the standard methodology of linguistics, to provide the Iranian researchers and compilers of the Iranian Linguistic Atlas with a reliable linguistic corpus.

The project has been planned to be continued with fresh data to be obtained from the territory, and based upon various types of linguistic questionnaires.

2. "Ethnography of the Iranian Territory" (1990's-...)

A national project designed and followed by the Anthropology Research Centre, affiliated to the Research Institute to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. The project is being updated and followed to cover the whole Iranian land with fresh, scientifically gathered data, and has been designed to encourage the publishing of several ethnographical atlases.

3. "Festival of Iranian Traditional and Ritualistic Theatre"

Held on a yearly basis, the festival is to encourage acquaintance with the Iranian Traditional and Ritualistic Theatre at the national, regional and international levels.

4. "Archive of Iranian Folk/Maqami Music"

Kept at the Department of Music to the Arts Faculty to the Islamic Propagation Organization, the archive keeps in itself a rich collection of

recorded Iranian Folk/Maqami Music, as well as the their related documented data.

5. "Archive of Iranian Folk Culture"

Kept at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization (IRIB), the archive is constituted by a rich collection of recorded original cultural features belonging to the remotest among the ethnic Iranian communities.

6. "Archive of the Iranian Traditional Artists and Craftsmen"

The Archive of the Iranian Traditional Artists and Craftsmen is being updated by the Deputy for Handicrafts affiliated to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). The archive is constituted by the specifications of the members of a great community of artists and craftsmen, each followed by a biography, a report on the contributions made, and the degrees gained by these people. The archive continues to be utilized as a reference for the evaluation of Iranian traditional arts, and a data-bank for providing the Iranian traditional artists and craftsmen with facilities of various kinds.

7. "Workshop Court of the Traditional Arts Research Centre, affiliated to the Research Institute to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (RI-ICHHTO)"

The Workshop Court of the Traditional Arts Research Centre, RI-ICHHTO, consists of a court at the heart of ICHHTO, Tehran, and encompasses a collection of workshops where prominent Iranian artists and craftsmen continue reproducing original artistic products and handicrafts. Notable among the activities of the Research Centre is its emphasis on endangered arts and crafts, and its efforts to bring in its workshops the traditional oral training methods to train interested pupils. Two prominent examples in this regard are the, so called, Zari-bāfi and Makhmal-bāfi (respectively, "Iranian gilded cloth" and "Iranian velvet") workshops of the Traditional Arts Research Centre, where the heavy installations of these two endangered traditional textile crafts have been brought in and masters are involved in producing original products as well as training pupils based upon the traditional oral training method.

8. National ICH Inscriptions (2006-...)

Having extended its activities to the field of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006, the same year when the Islamic Republic of Iran joined the 2003 Convention, the Office for Inscriptions and Preservation and Revitalization of Intangible and Natural Heritage, affiliated to Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, has succeeded in inscribing, at the national level, more than 3,000 ICH elements of the country. In the course of the recent three years, the procedure of national inscriptions has been standardized, through

- Publishing and distributing updated forms for national nominations, derived from the standardized UNESCO forms and procedures,
- Publishing and distributing updated rules and regulations for drafting national nomination files that follow the standard UNESCO rules and regulations,
- Holding regular meetings of the Iranian Supreme Council for Inscriptions (at least two meetings each year), in various places in the country, where a collection of several hundred elements are discussed for inscription on the Iranian national lists in the course of a one-week meeting,
- Encouraging local community involvement in the national inscription process in all its stages,
- Drafting and issuing rules and regulations on proper safeguarding of the nationally inscribed elements to guarantee perpetuation for them.

9. International ICH Inscriptions (2009-...)

Having started from the Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the States Members to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in the year 2009, the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in inscribing 10 ICH elements on the UNESCO ICH Lists:

A) 4th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2009

(1) Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauruz, Nevruz

- Multinational, Representative List of ICH
- Submitting States in Alphabetical Order: Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan (Islamic Republic of), Turkey, Uzbekistan
- Leading Country: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

(2) The Radif of Iranian Music

- National, Representative List of ICH

B) 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Nairobi, Kenya 2010

- (3) The Ritual, Dramatic Art of TA'ziye
 - National Representative List of ICH
- (4) The Music of the Bakhshi of Khorasan
 - National, Representative List of ICH
- (5) Traditional Skills of Carpet-weaving in Kashan
 - National, Representative List of ICH
- (6) Traditional Skills of Carpet-weaving in Fars
 - National, Representative List of ICH
- (7) The Pahlevani and Zurkhanei Rituals
 - National, Representative List of ICH
- C) 6th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Bali, Indonesia, 2011
 - (8) Naqqāli, Iranian Dramatic Story-telling
 - National, Urgent Safeguarding List of ICH
 - (9) Traditional Skills of Building and Sailing Iranian Lenj Boats in the Persian Gulf
 - National, Urgent Safeguarding List of ICH
- D) 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, Paris, France, 2012
 - (10) Qālišuyān Rituals of Mašhad-e Ardehāl, Kāšān
 - National, Representative List of ICH

10. Implementation of the 2003 Convention at the National Level (2006-...)

Having joined the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006, the Iranian authorities and ICH specialists relied upon their successful experiences on safeguarding the various elements of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to propose modifications in the basics and methodology of the field. The major challenging proposals on the part of the abovementioned regarded the ICH manifestations which, in their view, encompassed a vaster domain with more numerous elements. Basically, the following continue to be proposed by them to be worthy of inscription and safeguarding:

- Linguistic Heritage (aboriginal, local, vernacular languages and dialects),
- Living Human Treasures,
- The Dead Human Treasures (literary figures, artists, craftsmen, ...),
- The Dead ICH (vanished ICH worthy of archiving, studying, and, if possible, revitalization, among other safeguarding efforts),
- Places of Respected National/Regional Stance (buildings, sites, territories of highly regarded historical or mythological events),
- Religious values,
- Official and regional games and sports,
- etc.

The abovementioned open-ended list continues to be amended by new interpretations of the concepts; and these interpretations continue to affect the size of the related sets of manifestations.

The mentioned interpretations have given rise to a number of national ICH lists on which the related manifestations continue to be inscribed in the course of the sessions of the Iranian Supreme Council for Inscriptions. The candidature files for possible inscription on UNESCO lists have been, and continue to be, selected among the inscriptions on these various national lists.

11. The Library and Document Centre Affiliated to Research Centre, ICHHTO

Following its establishment in mid. 1980's, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) began, gradually, to establish its own Library and Document Centre, where the valuable documents, including documents, reports, documentation projects, research outputs, etc, on ICH could be kept. ICHHTO emerged in 1985 after the following, by then, autonomous organizations and institutions were defined as its components:

- The Iranian Archaeological Centre
- The Iranian Directorate for Traditional Arts
- The Iranian Centre for Anthropology Museum
- The Iranian Bureau for Historical Remains
- The Ancient Iran Museum
- The Office for Preservation of Provincial Cultural Heritage of Iran
- The Iranian Directorate for Museums
- The Iranian Directorate for Historical Monuments
- The Iranian Directorate for Palaces
- The National Iranian Organization for Preservation of Archaeological Remains
- The Iranian Directorate for Buildings (Golestan Palace).

Each of the abovementioned 11 institutions enjoyed the existence of its own unique, well-established and highly regarded, scientifically established, kept and updated archives. Consequently, the ICHHTO Library and Document Centre was supplied with valuable material immediately following its establishment.

The ICHHTO Library and Documents Centre enjoys the existence of a great number of ethnographies, documentation and research reports on Iranian traditional arts and craftsmanship, outputs of research on Iranian traditional knowledge, as well as reports of documentation and research projects on Iranian languages and dialects.

In 2005, following the establishment, within the structure of ICHHTO of the Research Institute to the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (RI-ICHHTO), the Library and Document Centre of ICHHTO was brought under the supervision of RI-ICHHTO.

12. The Library and Document Centre Affiliated to Anthropology Research Centre (ARC), RI-ICHHTO

One of the oldest among the Research Centres in Iran, the Anthropology Research Centre enjoys a background of more than 70 years of field-work and research on Iranian anthropological heritage. The outputs have been gathered and kept in the form of ethnographies, research reports, audio-visual material, books, and collections of articles in the Library and Document Centre of ARC. The same documents continue to be utilized as the corpus of materials for the completion of the National Project titled "Ethnography of the Iranian Territory" that is being followed by ARC.

ARC, also, functions as the central organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran directly related to ICH, to the extent that the various documentation, research, propagation, revitalization, and, on the whole, safeguarding efforts on the subject have been defined among its organizational duties.

13. The Directorate for Museums and Cultural-Historical Properties

Defined recently as a directorate affiliated to the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, the Directorate for Museums and Cultural-Historical Properties enjoys a longer history of a few more decades. As the name suggests, the directorate is interested in establishing, organizing, supervising, and supplying with the needed content of museums of various types. Among the museum types interested by the directorate, anthropological and ICH museums are worth mentioning. For the time being, the directorate is surveying the Iranian territory, as well as the scientific principles and methodologies in the field to continue with more anthropological and ICH museums in Iran, both conventional and virtual. In so doing, the directorate has been studying achievements by other countries in the field.

14. Archive of Iran House of Music

The greatest among the Iranian non-governmental organizations on music, the Iran House of Music enjoys the membership of the majority of the practitioners and researchers in the field. The NGO is composed of several working committees, among which "the Committee of Players", "the Committee of Singers", "the Committee of Researchers", and "the Committee of Musical Instrument Craftsmen" are worth mentioning.

In the course of the years before 2009, Iran House of Music undertook the compilation of the nomination titled "the Radif of Iranian Music" for possible inscription in the first round of inscribing ICH elements on UNESCO lists. The element was inscribed as the first national Iranian inscription on UNESCO Representative List in 2009.

Iran House of Music continues with safeguarding Iranian Traditional Music, among the other musical types of the country, and is actively following research, documentation, training, and revitalization projects on various aspects of the element.

15. Supreme Council on Radif of Iranian Music

The Supreme Council on Radif of Iranian Music works under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and is attended by a number of prominent Iranian master musicians as its members. The Council is involved in policy-making on proper safeguarding and transmission of the ICH element.

16. Iran House of Theatre

A non-governmental organization established and directed by specialists in theatrical activities, the Iran House of Theatre is, among its other duties, interested in preserving and safeguarding Iranian traditional theatrical types. These types include "the ritual, dramatic art of Ta'ziye", "Kheyime-shab-bāzi (Iranian puppetry)", "Namāyesh-e Ruhowzi (Iranian traditional comic theatre), among a number of other urban and rural dramatic activities.

The ICH element titled the Ritual, Dramatic Art of Ta'ziye was inscribed in 2010 on the Representative List of ICH after the related nomination file was drafted and presented with the collaboration of the Iran House of Theatre. The same NGO is involved in a series of activities, including annual festivals, devoted to safeguard Iranian traditional theatrical types.

17. Federation for Ethnic and Local Games

The Federation for Ethnic and Local Games is the officially recognized governmental organization in Iran that is responsible for identifying, documenting, preserving and propagating Iranian ethnic and local games. The federation has been able, among its other activities, to construct a list of Iranian ethnic and local games as its archive; the archive is among the most reliable sources for the researchers and cultural activists. The other activity of the federation is constituted by its continuous efforts to reconstruct Iranian ethnic and local games, especially the endangered or vanished ones, through training and supporting specialized teams throughout the country. The mentioned teams are, then, invited to various cultural events to exhibit the mentioned games, as a method to encourage their proper intergenerational transmissions.

18. Federation for Pahlevani and Zurkhanei Sports

The most ancient among the Iranian sports and games, the Pahlevani and Zurkhanei ritualistic sports constitute a major element of the Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage. The rituals and exercises continue to be transmitted between successive generations, and the people regard them as a major element that define Iranians with an aspect of their identity.

Before the time of establishment of the Pahlevani and Zurkhanei Federation, the element used to be safeguarded by the local community by various means. However, the establishment of the federation provided new opportunities for it to be safeguarded more vigorously. The federation is responsible for holding official training courses, competitions, festivals, and doing a number of other preservation activities. The ritualistic aspect of the element was inscribed on UNESCO Representative List in 2010 with the collaboration of the same organization.

Among its other activities, the Federation for Pahlevani and Zurkhanei Sports keeps and updates a list of practitioners in the various aspects of the element, including, the, so called, Morsheds ("musicians who accompany the rituals"), Pahlevan's ("master practitioners"), ordinary practitioners, active Zurkhane's ("traditional gymnasiums where the rituals are performed"), and the like. The list is among the officially valid ICH lists of the country.

19. Inventories of the Iranian bodies and organizations involved in preserving Iranian Traditional Medicine

Iranians are famous for their unique traditional medicine. This practice is linked to the other medical traditions of the world, while enjoying its idiosyncratic features. The tradition has been proved to be completely compatible with modern medicine, to the extent that a number of official governmental organizations and university departments have been established to devote their efforts to preserving it and its various aspects. To this governmental side, a number of non-governmental bodies must be added. The following constitute, but a few examples, in this regard:

A) Governmental

- Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO
- Faculty and Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shahed University
- Faculty of Traditional Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (12 Colleges)
- Research Institute for History of Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences
- Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University
- Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shiraz University
- Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences
- Centre for Islamic Great Encyclopedia

B) Non-governmental

- Society of ICH Advocates
- Scientific Society of Iranian Traditional Medicine
- Society for Revitalization of Written Heritage
- KROOS Green Society

Among the various activities that these organizations and bodies are involved in accomplishing, the compilation of several inventories on the various aspects of the element is worth mentioning. These inventories list a number of entities related to the element, including "specifications of traditional healers", "specifications of traditional doctors", "names of traditionally recognized disorders", "traditional (herbal) drugs", "traditional therapy exercises", and the like.

In the course of the past years, the mentioned organizations, as well as a number of other interested sides, have been collaborating with the Anthropology Research Centre, RI-ICHHTO, to draft and submit a new

nomination file for possible inscription in 2013 on the UNESCO Representative List of ICH, titled "Traditional Iranian Medicine". The nomination is, for the time being, passing through the evaluation process at UNESCO ICH Section.

20. Garden of Iranian Inscriptions

The Iranian territory enjoys the existence of a great number of movable epigraphs and rock inscriptions, dating back to linguistic traditions well prior to the installment, around 2,500 years ago, of Old Persian as the official language of the country. Starting in 2001, the Linguistics, Inscriptions and Texts Research Centre, RI-ICHHTO, started a major project to establish the first Iranian Garden of Inscriptions. The project began with preparing 1x1 copies of a number of the major rock inscriptions, and reconstructing them in the form of concrete or fiberglass copies.

The copies are, for the time being, kept in an open-air exhibition space at Niyavaran Palace, Tehran, called "Garden of Iranian Inscriptions". The garden is open to scholars, university students, researchers, and ordinary people. The project is known as a successful practice to preserve part of the Iranian written linguistic heritage.

21. Activities of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

Following Iran's joining the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO was established in 1938. Before the 1979 Revolution in Iran, the Commission used to function based upon a constitution that consisted of 13 articles. After the Islamic Revolution, the mentioned constitution was revised and the number of the articles was raised to 17. This new constitution was approved by the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly in 1987.

The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO is responsible for fulfilling five functions:

- **Mediator:** The Commission functions as a mediator between UNESCO, on the one hand, and the Iranian Government and the various governmental and non-governmental organizations, on the other. This mediating function is extendable to cover all of the centres, sub-regional, regional, and inter-regional offices of UNESCO, and other national Commissions of UNESCO in other countries.

- Advisor: The Commission, also, functions as an advisor to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the organizations and institutions affiliated to it, on UNESCO undertakings, activities, and programmes.
- Information Source: Raising awareness on the objectives, strategies, and programmes of UNESCO, as well as the various publications in this regard, by way of national and local media, as well as gathering statistical, among other, national data related to UNESCO activities, constitute the third function of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. On this same line, publications on related subjects, and translations of UNESCO books and documents into Persian are worth mentioning.
- Organizer: Organizer of UNESCO programmes in the country, and taking the necessary measures to facilitate the participation of governmental, non-governmental or individual entities to take part in UNESCO conferences and meetings.
- Planner, executor, and evaluator of UNESCO Programmes in the Country: Introducing UNESCO priorities to the government, encouraging participation of scientific and social institutes and societies in planning and execution of UNESCO programmes, especially, in drafting and approving international legal instruments, as well as participation in research on subjects interested by UNESCO.

The principal undertaking followed by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO consists of determining needs, encouraging focus on national and international priorities or urgencies, while avoiding peripheral activities. The major activities include survey and study of available contributions, exchanges of information, and improving national capacities on education, science, culture, and communication, based upon international standards. The major strategies, in this relation, consist of encouraging interdependence of research and policy-making, identification and enforcement of successful practices, development of national capacities, and encouraging interest at the nation level towards the most updated global issues.

The past and current activities of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO in the field of culture include efforts in line with the objectives of international cultural conventions, advisory texts, projects, and programmes. The main topics in this regard include "cultural diversity", "dialogue of civilizations and cultures", "safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage", "encouraging creativity and living cultures", "encouraging sustainable

tourism", and "commemoration of scientific, art, and cultural figures and events.

Among the major contributions of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO in the field of culture, in the recent years, the following are worth mentioning:

- Translating and publishing the International Proclamation on Cultural Diversity and the Convention for Preserving and Promoting Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- Holding joint conferences with the participation of governmental institutions, representatives of social communities, as well as cultural and social decision-making sides,
- Cooperation on nominating the year 2001 as the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures,
- Promotional activities and participation in national and regional specialist meetings on the year of Rapprochement of Cultures,
- Publishing a special issue of Payam-e UNESCO Journal on Rapprochement of Cultures,
- International Conference on the Role of the Youth in Encouraging Rapprochement of Cultures on the Silk Road,
- Establishment of Regional Network of the Youth on Rapprochement of Cultures,
- Translating and publishing the 1972 and 2003 Conventions,
- Regional Workshop on the Role of Women in Safeguarding and Transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Tehran, 2004),
- Coordination Meeting of Nowrouz-Celebrating States (Tehran, 2004),
- Participation in the Regional Conference on Promoting and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (Osaka, Japan, 2004),
- Cooperation in holding the Conference on Culture and Water (Tehran, 2005),
- National Consultative Meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Tehran, 2006),
- Second Meeting of the Nowrouz-Celebrating States (Tehran, 2008),
- Translating and publishing the book titled "Trade, Culture, and Globalization",
- Nominating Shiraz, as the Iranian "City of Literature" to join to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network,
- Cooperation in holding the National Conference on "Arts Training",
- Sixth Regional UNESCO Workshop on International Project on Promoting Cultural and Natural Tourism in Central and South Asian High Lands (Masoule, Gilan, 2004),

- Training Course on Capacity Building among the Masoule Youth (Masoule, Gilan, 2006),
- Inscription of the specifications of Iranian prominent figures on UNESCO List of Global Scholars, including Razi, Avicenna, Hafez, Roudaki, Khayyam, Khaje Nasireddin Tousi, Amir Kabir, Imam Mohammad Ghazali, Seyyed Jamaleddin Asad-abadi, and Sana'i the Ghaznavid,
- Conference to Commemorate the 900th Anniversary of the Death of Hakim Omar Khaaym (Neyshabour, 2000),
- Participation in the Preliminary Meeting to Commemorate Roudaki (2006),
- International Congress on Roudaki (2007),
- Participation in the Survey Project on Inter-cultural and Inter-religion Mutual Cultural and Religious Understanding on Mawlawi's thoughts, held on the 900th Anniversary of Mawlawi's birth (Tehran, 2007),
- International Conference on Seyyed Jamaleddin Asadabadi's Life, Works, and Thoughts (Qazvin and Hamedan, 2008),
- Establishment of and membership in several national committees and councils on various cultural subjects, including "the National Committee on Cultural and Natural Heritage", "the National Committee on Museums", "the National Committee on Councils and Historical Buildings", "the National Committee on Music", "the National Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage", and "the Council for Research on Art".

22. Activities of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (2003-...)

The UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (UTCO) was established in January 2003, in Tehran. The Office covers four countries in the region, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

Programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan are managed through UNESCO Offices in Kabul and Islamabad, while programmes for Iran and Turkmenistan are managed directly by the UTCO. The Cluster Office works in close co-operation with the UNESCO National Commissions and key governmental partners of the four cluster countries, as well as UN Agencies, ECO, ISESCO, and other IGOs and NGOs. At the regional level, UTCO also co-operates with UNESCO's regional offices in Bangkok and Jakarta.

In implementing UNESCO's mandate to "build peace in the minds of people", UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office underscores the importance of dialogue and sharing of knowledge through all its operations. Building upon the shared

cultural, social, historical and spiritual heritage of the cluster countries, the Office co-operates with national and regional partners in implementing its key activities in the fields of Education, Culture, Natural Sciences and Communication & Information.

The UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office closely co-operates with the relevant government authorities of the four cluster countries of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan, as well as the UN and UNESCO offices on the region. UTCO has a wide range of partners in the programme areas of education, culture, natural sciences, communication and information, as well as in the interdisciplinary fields pertinent for the region, including, among others, disaster management.

UTCO builds upon this wide network of partners, inclusive of governmental authorities, academic and research institutions, training institutes, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and international experts.

Regarding the promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage within the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Cluster Office has been actively involved in supporting various safeguarding issues through granting advice to the interested sides, among other related activities. The establishment in Tehran of the fifth UNESCO Category 2 Centre active in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, namely, Tehran Cluster Office, was followed with immediate help and advice on the part of UTCO, to the extent that two meetings of the Centre's Governing Council were held with the mentioned support. For the time being, UTCO is functioning on the same lines, linking the Category 2 Centre to UNESCO ICH Section by way of the UNESCO Bangkok Office.

The Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) is among the governmental organizations that has always benefited from constructive help by UTCO in all of its activities, including, among others, the preservation of the inscribed World Heritage Sites and Intangible Heritage Elements and the drafting of the related periodic reports.

23. Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations involved in the Safeguarding of the Iranian Traditional Medicine

The Iranian Traditional Medicine (ITM) is referred to a well-established, deeply-rooted, and well-preserved body of traditional knowledge on medicine, that is practiced throughout the country, by a great number of

diverse communities, each with its own unique cultural features. The interested sides involved in preserving the element include individual native healers, traditional master healers and druggists/chemists, scholars and researchers, as well as a number of bodies and organizations, including the non-governmental Society of ICH Advocates, Scientific Society of Iranian Traditional Medicine, Society of Revitalization of Written Heritage, and KROOS Green Society. To these must be added a number of governmental bodies, including, among others, the Anthropology Research Centre to ICHHTO, the Faculty and Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shahed University, the Faculty of Traditional Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (12 colleges), the Research Institute for History of Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, the Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University, the Research Centre for Traditional Medicine, Shiraz University, the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Iranian Centre for Islamic Great Encyclopedia.

The activities to safeguard ITM are classifiable at the two levels of the concerned communities and the governmental bodies. On the whole, these activities include, among others, documentation, revitalization, promotion, and publication of various aspects of this body of traditional knowledge. For the time being, around 170 scientific NGO's on the Iranian Traditional Medicine are working and have been granted scientifically justified certificates by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education. To these one must add around 50 other NGO's that are working on the aspects of this knowledge with certificates granted by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology or the official provincial offices. These second-type NGO's are specifically active regarding the anthropological aspects of the element. Previous activities on the part of these NGO's cover herbal medicine, some Practical Traditional activities, as well as research, unofficial education and training, as well as public service affairs. The contributions by concerned individuals include personal activities at the local level by master and traditional healers, who are involved in Practical Iranian Medicine activities in urban and rural environments. Several non-governmental Traditional Iranian Medicine guild unions are active in the country, that are working on procurement and production of the needed drugs. Spontaneous intergenerational transmission of the traditional knowledge is vastly done among the local community members. Some trans-border activities continue to be followed by interested groups, individuals and NGO's, in performing practical issues, as well as holding exhibitions or doing publications.

The past and current safeguarding efforts by the concerned governmental bodies include:

Ministry of Health and Medical Education

- Training Workshop on Traditional and Complementary Medicine(1998)
- The first Faculty and Clinic for Traditional Medicine, Shahed University
- Research Institute for History of Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences(2000)
- Advisor to the Minister of Health on Traditional Medicine(2002)
- Traditional Medicine Texts in Iranian and Islamic Civilizations(2002)
- Education Council for Traditional and Complementary Medicine(2003)
- MS Course in Traditional Medicine(2005-7)
- Research Network on Traditional Medicine(2006)
- Academic course on Traditional Pharmaceuticals(2007)
- Scientific Society of Iranian Traditional Medicine(2007)
- Inclusion of Iranian Traditional Medicine as a course title for all students of Medicine(2010-...)
- Deputy for Traditional Iranian Medicine in the Ministry of Health(2012)

Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO

- Background of 70 years of research on Traditional Iranian Medicine

The Governmental safeguarding efforts regarding ITM include:

A) Research and publications

The major governmental bodies involved in such activities include:

- Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO
- Faculties of Traditional Medicine(more than 10)
- Academy of Medical Sciences
- Iranian Centre for Islamic Great Encyclopedia

B) Report to 2nd WHO Global Survey on National Policy and Regulation for Traditional and Complementary/Alternative Medicine

The report was drafted and submitted jointly by the concerned governmental bodies.

C) Training

A basic activity in line with safeguarding and promoting ITM at the national level, training courses on the subject are vigorously followed by a number of the concerned bodies and organizations. Among these, seven rounds of training university students on Iranian Traditional Medicine

and Pharmaceutics (as of 2007) is worth mentioning. The mentioned training courses continue to be held by the universities named above.

D) Public Services

To the activities mentioned above, a number of public services must be added. Notable among these, are the following:

- Public clinics for Traditional Iranian Medicine
- Traditional Iranian Medicine pharmacies
- National and international scientific conferences and workshops on the subject
- Revitalization and circulation of old texts on the subject(100 texts)
- Quarterly on Iranian and Islamic Traditional Medicine (2000-...)

24. Tehran ICH Centre, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) (2012-...)

Following the signing, in 28 April 2010, of the Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Regarding the Establishment, in Tehran, of a Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2), the procedure for the preparation of the ground for official establishment of the Centre started immediately in the same year. The mentioned procedure consisted of several phases:

- Passing through the needed official procedure to legally enable the Centre to start its activities: The mentioned procedure consisted of approval of the draft legislation by the Board of Ministers to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adoption of related law at the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the final approval of the mentioned law by the Council of the Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Preparation of the needed budget and logistics: The procedure was directed in several directions, including following the needed negotiations with the Iranian Ministry of Finance to provide the Centre with the needed yearly budget, interaction with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) to provide the Centre with the needed headquarters, preparation of the needed office equipment with the help of ICHHTO, and providing the Centre with the needed personnel to do the follow up leading to the official working of the Centre.

- Correspondence with the states on the West and Central Asian Region to invite them to participate in the activities of the Centre.
- Collaboration with the UNESCO ICH Section, Paris, UNESCO Bangkok Office, UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to prepare the ground for the official inauguration of the Centre.
- Election of the Governing Council Members,
- Preparation of the Basic Documents of the Centre needed to be approved by the Governing Council: These included the Constitution, the Staffing Table, the Long- and Mid-term Strategy, the First-year Programmes, and the Book of Rules and Regulations; the agenda, also, included the official election of the GC Chairperson, the Director of the Centre, the official approval of the Web-site of the Centre, and some other items.

On November 16th and 17th, 2012, the First Ordinary Governing Council Meeting of the Centre was held, where a major part of the agenda was adopted. Among the adopted agenda items, the temporary logo and the abbreviated name of the Centre, namely "Tehran ICH Centre", are worth mentioning. The same Governing Council decided that the First Extraordinary Governing Council Meeting needed to be held soon after the mentioned meeting, since some lacking basic documents needed to be approved very soon in order to enable the Centre to continue its activities. The First Extraordinary Meeting of the Centre was held on 21 and 22 May 2013, and the remaining parts of the needed documents were approved there.

Tehran ICH Centre has, now, become a member of the network of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres on ICH worldwide. The first-year programmes are now being followed, and, simultaneously, the Centre is actively collaborating with the UNESCO ICH Section, the UNESCO Bangkok Office, the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to have its programmes geared toward the overall strategies and programming approach of UNESCO. Especially, the Centre's activities have a regional perspective to them, as its mandate and undertakings determine.

However, at the national level, the activities described above have not prevented the Centre to act as competent advisory body to the Iranian governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with ICH and its safeguarding.