

II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

A. The Iranian National ICH Inventory

The Supreme Inscription Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, chaired by Iranian Vice President and ICHHTO Chairman, or his fully authorized representative, and attended by the Deputies to the Chair, the Director Generals of the Bureaus supervised by the mentioned deputies, representatives of governmental organizations in the field of culture, and experts and practitioners of Iranian ICH, including NGO representatives as well as individuals, is the main Iranian body responsible for editing, keeping, and updating the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Supreme Inscription Council enjoys the stance of the highest ranking decision-making body of the Islamic Republic of Iran on inscriptions of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, including the Intangible Cultural Heritage elements of the country, on the international inventories, in addition to the National ICH Inventory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian National ICH Inventory is kept at the Directorate for Inscriptions, and Preservation and Revitalization of Intangible and Natural Heritages, affiliated to the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, where it is updated and published, with the help of local community members, on a regular annual basis, and under the supervision of the Supreme Inscription Council. The Supreme Council has, also, empowered the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, to sign the national inscription certificates, and the nominations submitted to UNESCO.

The comments above prove that the Iranian National ICH Inventory is drawn up and updated through respecting the 2003 Convention contents fully, with special attention toward Articles 11 and 12, thereof.

The involvement of the local communities of bearers and practitioners of the Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage properties in the inscription processes described above continues to the level of various collaborations in providing the needed documents, preparing the required audio-visual materials, drafting and submitting the needed consent documents at the time of submitting

nominations files for inscriptions, providing advice in proposing and following safeguarding measures on the elements at various levels, and holding meetings and gatherings of various types to guarantee proper transmission of the elements to younger generations.

B. Other Lists and Inventories

Various Iranian governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned with Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage keep their own lists and inventories which they regularly update. The following constitute examples in this regard:

1. Inventory of the Iranian Linguistic Atlas

Kept at the Linguistics, Inscriptions and Texts Research Centre, affiliated to the Research Institute, ICHHTO, the inventory includes in itself specifications of around 50,000 recorded linguistic interviews. The interviews have been gathered from the majority of the Iranian villages in the course of the past 40 years, and provide the Iranian Linguistic Atlas with its needed data. Each interview has been recorded in the inventory with comprehensive information on its geographical, demographic, and linguistic specifications.

2. Inventory of the Library and Document Centre of the Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO

The Library and Document Centre of the Anthropology Research Centre, affiliated to the Research Institute to ICHHTO, includes in itself printed and audio-visual material gathered in the course of years of ethnographic fieldwork conducted on a majority of ethnic Iranian communities. The related inventory classifies the documented data under various ethnographic headings. The data is being used for the publication of ethnographic encyclopedias and atlases by the Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO.

3. Archive of Iranian Folk/Maqami Music

The Department of Music to the Arts Faculty of the Iranian Islamic Propagation Organization keeps and updates, among its other duties, an archive of Iranian Folk/Maqami Music. The inventory provides researchers with comprehensive data on all aspects of the gathered data, including, among others, information on the geographical, demographic, and artistic specifications.

4. IRIB Archive of Iranian Folk Culture

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization (IRIB) keeps one of the oldest archives and inventories of the Iranian folk culture in the form of recorded data. The archive continues to be updated and its data continue to be utilized in various radio and TV programmes.

5. Inventory of Iranian Traditional Artists and Craftsmen

Kept and updated at the Deputy for Handicrafts, ICHHTO, the inventory includes the latest information about the Iranian traditional artists and craftsmen, and provides its users with practical data on the state of each artistic field and its practitioners. The inventory, at the same time, is a point of reference to provide Iranian artists with various utilities and facilities.

6. Library and Document Centre Affiliated to Research Centre, ICHHTO

The Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) enjoys the existence of its own Library and Document Centre. The mentioned archive provides researchers with valuable documents, reports, documentation projects, research outputs, etc, on ICH.

Among the documents kept at the archive the research and documentation outputs of the subdivisions of the Research Institute to ICHHTO are worth mentioning. These include 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.

7. Inventory of the Directorate for Museums and Cultural-Historical Properties, ICHHTO

The Directorate for Museums and Cultural-Historical Properties keeps and makes updated its own inventory of Iranian conventional and virtual museums. Among these museums, a number of anthropological museums are worth mentioning. The inventory provides its users with full information on the specifications of such museums.

8. Inventory of Iran House of Music

The Inventory of Iran House of Music provides its users with comprehensive information on the various aspects of the Iranian music and its practitioners and researchers on the subject. The committees affiliated to the NGO, namely "the Committee of Players", "the Committee of Singers", "the Committee of Researchers", and "the Committee of Musical Instrument Craftsmen" continually provide the inventory with the needed data on their fields of interest.

The mentioned inventory continues to function as one of the most reliable sources of information on the Iranian music.

9. Inventory of Iranian Federation for Ethnic and Local Games

Among its other duties, the Iranian Federation for Ethnic and Local Games has been involved in identifying, documenting, preserving and propagating Iranian ethnic and local games. Along these same lines, the federation has succeeded in creating and updating a reliable inventory of ethnic and local Iranian games.

10. Inventories for Iranian Traditional Medicine

Several Iranian governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as university departments are, for the time being, involved in creating and updating inventories on various aspects of Iranian Traditional Medicine. These inventories can be classified in the name of the mentioned organs. 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]

The inventories owned by the abovementioned bodies list a number of entities related to the Iranian Traditional Medicine including "specifications of traditional healers", "specifications of traditional doctors", "names of traditionally recognized disorders", "traditional (herbal) drugs", "traditional therapy exercises", and the like.