

II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

1. National inventory

Nepal has become the party of the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 in 2010. Nepal is in need of developing a National ICH inventory. In this regard, the capacity of responsible authorities should be enhanced.

In this connection, Nepal could be benefited from the experiences and good practices of other Asia-Pacific nations.

Nepal has been using its own Patro (Nepalese calendar based on astrology). This Patro has been coding various festivals observing time. Most of the ICHs are found associated with these festivals and events. So, the communities have been practicing ICHs which ultimately continuing them and their traditions. In fact, many of practitioners are not aware with the ICH prospective.

In community level, folklore associations, private Guthis (trusts), private institutions, schools etc have been observing and organizing various cultural events and ceremonies but they are also based on tradition. It is in need to make them aware with the motif, auspicious values, associated beliefs, the origin and socio-cultural importance. In a diverse socio-cultural setting these ICH could be most effective means of identities and flourishing cash crops.

We are in a preliminary stage of defining ICH and developing of ICH framework. Nepal National Commission for UNESCO is initiating a round table discussion with the cultural activists, academicians, experts, representatives from public and private organizations, private Guthis representatives, policy makers etc.

As discussed above our Patro can be considered as an inventory for cultural events but it is only indicating the time for observing/celebrating them. In Nepalese society our rituals, from birth to death are consisting of various Intangible cultures. The colourful series of annual festivals/ events could be considered as the uniqueness of heterogeneous Nepalese society. In fact, all the race and cast groups have their own typical way, events, artefacts, beliefs and patterns of these cultures. In addition they have some specific cultures as

well as some common. The scholars who have been studying this sector are found with a view that the Inventory of Nepalese Intangible Cultural Heritage could be very long.

2. Non-governmental inventory

Not yet established