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[SUMMARY]

ICHCAP Field Survey Report on ICH Safeguarding Efforts in Some South Asian Countries (2010-2013)

Introduction

Based on the *ICHCAP Field Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts* in some South Asian countries (2010–2013), this summary provides a brief overview on the ICH situation in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka¹.

The summary focuses mainly on ICH safeguarding systems, safeguarding policies, and ICH inventories as well as on pending issues and the urgent safeguarding needs of these countries. Moreover, information on the main entities in charge of ICH safeguarding and opinions of each country on the issue of community involvement are provided. To give a quick overview these countries' participation in ICH safeguarding at the international level, some additional information related to UNESCO is specified as well. Some information on the ICH safeguarding status of Pakistan is updated, based on Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the status of elements inscribed on the RL submitted to UNESCO on December 2012.

This survey report offers a large sample of the diverse ICH situations in South Asian countries. Each country has a different background on the issue of intangible heritage. Although all the participating countries are concerned about the threats facing ICH, most of the countries participating in the survey haven't defined the ICH and haven't established national ICH lists and/or ICH inventories.

However, each country expresses a high degree of motivation and encouragement for safeguarding o ICH, sharing experiences, and cooperating internationally. A common point noticed among them is that they tend to pay more attention to traditional performing arts in comparison to other ICH domains.

Apart from the main subject, information on the situation of intellectual property related to ICH safeguarding in each country is included. However, this issue is very briefly reflected, so it is necessary to go through the *ICHCAP Field Survey on Intellectual Property Issues in the Process of ICH Information Building and Information Sharing (2011–2012)* to obtain more comprehensive and concrete information on this topic.

¹ Listed according to the date of the field survey.

Abbreviation

- ICH Intangible Cultural Heritage
- UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- RL Representative List
- USL Urgent Safeguarding List
- IGO Inter-Governmental Organization
- NGO Non-Governmental Organization
- GO Governmental Organization
- IP Intellectual Property
- IPR Intellectual Property Rights

NEPAL

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2010; conducted survey in 2010
- As of December 2014, has no element on the ICH Lists of UNESCO and one accredited NGO

Safeguarding System and Policy

The Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) is the main national law concerning ICH. According to the survey report, ICH issues are integrated in different fundamental rights of Nepalese people. Nepal is in a process of defining ICH and developing the necessary legal framework for safeguarding ICH.

Regarding cultural policy related to ICH, the following legislation is listed in field survey:²

- Human Rights Commission Act (1995)
- National Foundation for Upliftment of Aadibasi/Janjati Act (2002)³
- Nepal Fine Arts Academy Act (2007)
- Industrial Act (1993)
- The Guthi Corporation Act (1972)
- Local Self Governance Act (1999)
- Local Administration Act, Interim Plan, Government's Annual Program and Budget, The Greater Janakpur Area Development Council Act (1998)
- Nepal Music and Dance Academy Act (2007)
- Nepal Academy Act (2007)
- Pashupati Area Development Trust Act (1987)

All these acts have some portions related to protecting traditional folk culture, but there is no specific and independent law on protecting cultural heritage. The report has a thorough list of the needed methods and measures to be taken to enhance the process of developing ICH safeguarding policies and systems.

ICH Inventory

Nepal hasn't established a national ICH inventory, but it is making initial steps toward an inventory by convening relevant stakeholders.

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

Some elements of traditional performing arts and oral traditions are in danger of disappearance. However, there aren't any national lists on endangered or representative ICH elements. The absence of a specific state policy and programme on ICH, low level of ICH awareness, insufficient research on ICH, and little experience with ICH safeguarding and continuing traditional culture celebrated by the communities mainly constitute the current situation of ICH in Nepal.

One assessment says, "The Nepalese people are continuing their culture as *tradition* not with *cultural heritage perspective*. General public, even not being familiar with the auspicious values and motifs,

² Four acts not necessarily related to ICH are excluded here.

³ Aadibasi/Janjati is defined as community or tribe that has its own mother language, traditional rites and customs, distinct cultural identity, distinct social structure, and written or unwritten history.

are continuing intangible cultures in the name of traditions and spirituality.” Paradoxically, the field survey report considers “high dependency on the communities as continued traditions” as a difficulty encountered in safeguarding ICH. Nepal is encouraged to develop an ICH safeguarding system and to share with other countries.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Federal Affairs, Constitutional Assembly, Parliamentary Affairs and Culture

Community Involvement

No comments are provided. Instead, attention is placed on the efforts of governmental and international organizations. However, in the ICH inventory section, there is a comment relevant to communities:

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.

Remarks

The Copyright Act (2002) and Copyrights Regulation (2004) are integrated in the cultural policy, but they appear to be rather conventional copyright policies and not specifically concerned with traditional cultural expressions or traditional knowledge.

BHUTAN

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2005; conducted survey in 2010
- As of December 2014, has one element on the RL and one accredited NGO

Safeguarding System and Policy

The Constitution of Bhutan (2008) has an article that protects the Bhutanese cultural heritage. Moreover, the Antiques Act (2005) and Legal Deposit Act (1999) are the main acts concerning moveable heritage and documentary heritage of Bhutan. Although there is no national act concerning ICH, the cultural policy of Bhutan along with the National Archives Act is being drafted.

ICH Inventory

Bhutan has not established a national ICH inventory yet. There are some local efforts to document and preserve traditional music and dance, which are highlighted for support. A major activity included in the filed survey report is a project on documenting a Buddhist ritual dance, *cham*, that was carried out from 2005 to 2007 with the support of Honolulu Academy of Arts, USA. As a result of this project, a digital archive of more than three hundred hours of *cham* dance was created. The field survey report lists the 658 items indexed in this archive.

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

Due to its self-isolation over a number of years, Bhutan believes that many aspects of ICH have been preserved relatively intact. Nevertheless, several ICH elements in need of urgent safeguarding are listed within the remarks, but there is no national USL. The necessity for ICH research and documentation is emphasized. Some local institutes conduct documentation and research on ICH, but the financial and manpower constraints hinder the progress of their activities.

Bhutan is planning to establish a national inventory of ICH and an ICH map ICH along with other capacity-building and awareness-raising projects.

Furthermore, it is encouraging international cooperation on strengthening the legal framework on protecting traditional culture and cultural heritage, promoting research and documentation, and learning from international experience and guidance. A separate project proposal on ICH safeguarding is promised to be sent to ICHCAP in due course.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs—Royal Academy of Performing Arts

Community Involvement

Bhutan states that “awareness about the cultural heritage as the national identity should be created to ensure active community involvement”.

Remarks

Very general and brief provisions on copyright issues are promulgated in the following legislation:

- Antiques Act
- Moveable Cultural Property of Bhutan
- Legal Deposit Act
- Act to Collect, Preserve, and Manage Bhutan's Documentary Heritage
- Draft of National Archives Act.

It seems that there is no awareness on the intellectual property questions related to ICH safeguarding.

BANGLADESH

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2009; conducted survey in 2010
- As of December 2014, has two elements on the RL and two accredited NGOs

Safeguarding System and Policy

The Constitution of Bangladesh (1972) envisages the protection of cultural heritage of Bangladesh. There is no independent legislative act on the protection of cultural heritage though. However, the National Policy of Culture (2006) constitutes the cultural categories, strategy, responsible institutions, and means to implement this policy, in which ideas of protecting traditional culture is reflected.

Bangladeshi National Policy of Culture seems to be influenced by the UNESCO and WIPO instruments on culture, such as the UNESCO 2005 Convention,⁴ Berne Convention,⁵ and TRIPS⁶, and is motivated integrate culture into economic development. Strategies related to the development of tourism are a large place in the cultural policy. Moreover, in the policy, culture and traditions are recognized as the vital instruments for upholding the country's image and identity to the world.

ICH Inventory

By 2010, Bangladesh didn't have a comprehensive ICH inventory and planned to establish a complete a national ICH inventory by the end of 2011.

The field survey report provided information on local efforts to research traditional culture, which included the Cultural Survey of Bangladesh that was carried out by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. The outcome of the project is twelve-volume publication on the ICH of Bangladesh. Furthermore, nine references on the research of Bangladeshi traditional culture are listed.

Bangladesh had piloted a programme similar to the Living Human Treasures system from 1996 to 2001. Karu Palli or the Village of Arts and Crafts hosted traditional craftsmen for one year and provided them with the conditions to maintain and transmit their ICH. According to the Field survey report, there is an interest and enthusiasm from the communities for this kind of programmes to continue in the future.

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

Art of weaving muslin and several elements of traditional performing arts are listed as endangered ICH. Like Bhutan and Nepal, Bangladesh doesn't have a national RL and/or USL. The factors threatening Bangladeshi ICH include the lack of basic awareness on ICH in general society (as a Muslim-majority community, Bangladeshi people don't give priority to worldly things, and they are unaware of the protection and preservation of things⁷), insufficiency of existing legal instruments, and accelerating effects of globalization as well as lack of financial, technical, and professional capacities.

⁴ Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

⁵ Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works

⁶ The WIPO-WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

⁷ According to the President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, highlighted in the survey.

There are some plans for safeguarding ICH foreseen by governmental organizations, but no further details are provided.

Bangladesh is encourages international cooperation on building capacity, making inventories, and introducing the Living Human Treasures System.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Community Involvement

There is a need to conduct awareness-building programmes among the communities.

Remarks

Brief provisions related to the Copyright Act (2000) and the Copyright Office are stipulated in the National Policy of Culture. But like in many other countries, the Bangladeshi copyright policy does not appear to cover the domains of ICH.

PAKISTAN

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2005; conducted survey in 2011
- As of December 2014, has one element on the RL and no accredited NGOs
- Submitted its periodic report on the implementation of the Convention and status of elements inscribed on the RL to UNESCO in December 2012

Safeguarding System and Policy

There is no legal background on protecting cultural heritage, but the following an ordinance has been established: ORDINANCE No: LIV OF 2002, complying with the Proposal by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage or Lok Virsa (2002).

The main governmental entity coordinating ICH safeguarding activities is Lok Virsa. Established in 1974, this institute has the requisite expertise and experience in collecting, documenting, and preserving tangible and intangible heritage of Pakistan. The institute organizes various festivals of traditional craftsmanship, meetings, and training workshops on transmitting and documenting ICH elements of Pakistan. It endeavours to cooperate with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, but things move forward quite slowly.

ICH Inventory

By 2012, Pakistan did not have a national ICH inventory. On this matter, Lok Virsa asked for a recommendation and approval of an ICH committee to prepare an inventory from their respective official structures, but no response was received. Nevertheless, Pakistan has an informal inventory setup in which identified ICH elements are being added progressively.⁸

Actually, Lok Virsa itself owns the largest library on Pakistani culture (which has 1,500 hours of video and 3,500 hours of audio recordings, and more than 25,000 books and publications), and it has the largest ethnological museum (which has a laboratory and complete database of museum items) of the country.⁹

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

There are no national lists of endangered or representative ICH elements. Several elements of performing arts and traditional craftsmanship are enumerated as elements in danger of extinction. The factors affecting ICH are modernization, cash economy, urbanization, industrialization, and mass media. The biggest problem on ICH safeguarding is financial, which is mentioned as a priority to ensure community involvement in ICH safeguarding activities.

In regards to the country's efforts on safeguarding ICH, in May 2011, Lok Virsa established the National Database of Cultural Assets, which has data of cultural mapping of six districts, to carry out a

⁸ Cf. Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, submitted to UNESCO on December 2012, p.4.

⁹ Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, submitted to UNESCO on December 2012, p.2.

cultural mapping project.¹⁰ Moreover, in 2012, it established the database that holds the data of all known artisans and artists in the country.¹¹ Also, there are plans of establishing branch offices of Lok Virsa in all the provinces of Pakistan, expanding the scope of current projects, and making an ICH inventory.

Conducting extensive field surveys, systematic research, and documentation; making an ICH inventory; and building financial, technical, and professional capacities are necessary. These challenges are addressed in the country report to UNESCO in 2012.

Pakistan is motivated for international cooperation on training personnel in documentation and other fields of ICH, campaigns on including ICH into educational syllabi, electronic media programmes, and constitutions of nation states in a very comprehensive and elaborate way.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of National Heritage and Integration—National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa)

Community Involvement

For Pakistan, ensuring the economic viability of communities is of the utmost importance. And then, a very responsible educational system, very conscious and knowledgeable electronic and print media in corporate sectors will help underline the worth and beauty of local, regional, and national cultural heritage.

In the country report submitted to UNESCO in 2012, Pakistan states that the procedure of the inventory is that either Lok Virsa is contacted by the community members/tradition bearers or Lok Virsa is in the course of implementing its general mandate of identification, collection, and dissemination of folk and traditional heritage and tends to list these elements on an inventory.

Remarks

Pakistan notes that the lack of will and commitment at a higher level is far behind neighbouring and developed countries who have gained landmark achievements in safeguarding ICH.¹² Concerning the IP issues in ICH safeguarding, no information is provided. A definition of ICH and other terms are provided in the report on the activities of Lok Virsa.

¹⁰ Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, submitted to UNESCO on December 2012, p.6.

¹¹ Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, submitted to UNESCO on December 2012, p.2.

¹² Periodic Report No.00794/Pakistan on the implementation of the Convention and on the Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, submitted to UNESCO on December 2012, p.3.

SRI LANKA

- Accepted the ICH Convention in 2008; conducted survey 2011
- As of December 2014, has no element on the Lists of UNESCO and two accredited NGOs

Safeguarding System and Policy

Unlike its neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka has fundamental legislation on protecting cultural heritage, which constituted by several acts, including the following:

- Antiquities Ordinance (1940)
- Cultural Property Act (1988)
- National Archives Law (1973)
- National Museums Ordinance (1942)
- National Library and Documentation Services Board Act (1998)
- Town and Country Planning Act (2000)
- Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act (1978)
- Arts Council of Ceylon Act.

Although most of these acts concern tangible, movable, immovable, and documentary heritage, there are three acts related to ICH—Intellectual Property Act, Arts Council of Ceylon, and Tower Hall Theatre Foundation Act. Sri Lankan policy on ICH includes the Intellectual Property Act (2003) that promulgates an article directly linked to ICH by defining the term “expression of folklore”.

Regarding cultural policy, the Constitution of Sri Lanka accepts the importance of national cultural heritage. Moreover, national cultural policy documents encourage the activities for traditional arts and embrace all sorts of tangible and intangible heritage. Another important legal document is the draft of the National Policy of Traditional Knowledge and Practices, on which strategies for exchanging traditional knowledge and practices for the use of benefits achieved from traditional knowledge and practices as well as strategies for education, promotion, and legal protection of traditional knowledge and practices are promulgated.

ICH Inventory

Sri Lanka has not established a national ICH inventory yet. However, since 2008, the Department of National Archives, National Library, and Documentation Board started compiling ICH data to become the basis of a national ICH inventory. The compilation of ICH data categorizes ICH into three domains and includes sixty-five entries by 2011. An official website for ICH was created and information on the inventory is available online.¹³

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

Concerning endangered ICH, some elements enumerated are in the domains of knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, traditional performing arts, and traditional sports and games. The main factors that threaten Sri Lankan ICH are the effects of colonization and globalization.

¹³ <http://www.natlib.lk/inhe/>

The lack of coordination and cooperation in the ICH field, the lack of comprehensive policy on ICH, and insufficient professional capacity as well as the lack of needed funds highlight the difficulties in carrying out ICH safeguarding activities. There is an urgent need to establish a committee with the power to coordinate ICH-related activities and advise the government.

Sri Lanka is motivated for international cooperation on diverse activities for safeguarding ICH and highlighted the needs for building capacity, networking, establishing strong legal instrument against commercial misuse of ICH, establishing pledged international ICH libraries, conducting research and documentations, and promoting researchers on the subject. The need of in-depth trans-disciplinary studies on ICH is emphasized as well.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Culture and Arts, Ministry of National Heritage

Community Involvement

Sri Lanka highlights “Recognition of ownership and representation of particular ICH at national, community and individual level, empowerment of rights and role of community with regard to ICH through skill-based awareness, capacity building pertaining to strengthening knowledge, attitude and practice in ICH”.

Remarks

Compared to its neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka is well aware of the relationship of IP and ICH. Sri Lanka notes the need for introducing guidelines for preparing legally stable, socially acceptable, and financially equitable IPR mechanisms at the country level for sharing mutual benefits of stakeholders. Moreover, it suggests that ICHCAP closely monitor each country’s legal strategies to ensure protection of IPR in ICH and facilitate interest groups to work with communities in awareness programmes.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2006; conducted survey in 2012
- As of December 2014, has ten elements on the RL and two accredited NGOs

Safeguarding System and Policy

The Book of Rules and Regulations of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes the basic text, complying with the proposal by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), to deal with cultural issues including the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

This book presents comprehensive legal texts on various aspects of ICH, including the following:

- 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
- 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
- Overall Policies of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Sections
- National Policies on National Documentation

Moreover, the Law of the Establishment of a Regional Research Centre in Tehran for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category 2) was signed between UNESCO and government of Iran in 2011.

The Centre supports activities on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage among in Member States of West and Central Asia and enhances cultural diversity and promotes international cooperation throughout the region.

ICH Inventory

The Iranian national ICH inventory has undertaken to the Deputy for Cultural Heritage, ICHHTO, with the help of local community members and under the supervision of the Supreme Inscription Council. Various Iranian governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with Iranian intangible cultural heritage keep their own lists and inventories that they regularly update.

The followings are examples in this regard:

- Inventory of the Iranian Linguistic Atlas
- Inventory of the Library and Document Centre of the Anthropology Research Centre, ICHHTO
- Archive of Iranian Folk/Maqami Music
- IRIB Archive of Iranian Folk Culture
- Inventory of Iranian Traditional Artists and Craftsmen
- Library and Document Centre Affiliated to Research Centre, ICHHTO
- Inventory of the Directorate for Museums and Cultural-Historical Properties, ICHHTO

- Inventory of Iran House of Music
- Inventory of Iranian Federation for Ethnic and Local Games
- Inventories for Iranian Traditional Medicine

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

The Islamic Republic of Iran has felt an urgent need to classify its ICH properties that have been neglected at the national and international levels. Entry into new fields of activities on ICH is the other issue that is of great importance to Iranian cultural authorities:

A. Iranian understanding of the basics of ICH

- Dead ICH
- Living Human Treasures
- Human Treasures of the Past
- Linguistic Heritage
- Cultural/spiritual values
- Communal Shared Heritage

B. Entry into new fields of activities on ICH

- Periodic reporting on internationally inscribed Iranian ICH
- Planning and executing appropriate revitalization measures on Iranian ICH inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List
- Submission of nominations for the other ICH lists: Best Practices, International Assistance, etc.
- Submission of new multinational nominations on ICH for international inscription
- Providing Tehran ICH Centre with appropriate support to conduct effective research projects on safeguarding ICH on the West and Central Asian Region
- Providing UNESCO with new initiatives on promoting the spirit of the 2003 Convention and providing it with the needed instruments

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Deputy for Cultural Heritage affiliated with the ICHHTIO.

Community Involvement

The Iranian government is a well-established, deeply rooted, and well-preserved body of traditional knowledge on culture, with a great number of diverse communities, each with its own unique cultural features. The government considers the concerned community activities. These activities include, among others, documentation, revitalization, promotion, and publication of various aspects of this body of traditional knowledge.

The involvement of the local communities of ICH bearers and practitioners 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, providing advice in proposing and

safeguarding measures on the elements at various levels, and gatherings of various types to guarantee proper transmission of the elements to younger generations.

Remarks

Fully aware of the importance of the concept of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries that joined the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. During the last decade, many efforts have been done. One of the important common features is highlighting the role of the communities, NGO's, and the private sector in safeguarding and transmitting intangible cultural heritage to the future generations. Another current common feature for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage is organizing festivals, exhibitions, fairs, and contests in the sphere of the cultural expressions related to the element.

INDIA

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2005; conducted survey in 2013
- As of December 2014, has eleven elements on the RL and twenty-eight accredited NGOs

Safeguarding System and Policy

Most states in India have enacted laws on safeguarding cultural heritage, which constituted by several acts, and this legislation has been enacted to preserve and safeguard the cultural assets of the country. The legislation is related to the following domains:

- Promotion and preservation of historical monuments, heritage sites
- Establishment of/support for cultural institutions
- Protection of intellectual property rights (copyright, patents, geographical indication)
- Conservation of indigenous traditional knowledge
- Tribes Cultural Rights
- Media and content monitoring

Regarding cultural policy, the Constitution of India guarantees cultural rights of the citizens. Moreover, several ministries and departments of the Indian government are taking responsibility for the safeguarding, conserving, and promoting cultural heritage of India by supporting and sustaining tangible and intangible heritage.

However, there are issues to be overcome.

- The existing legislation and policies focus on monuments and sites.
- In terms of community involvement, civil society organizations are removed from existing legislation.
- Updating and coordinating legislation is needed to harmonize the institutional framework.

ICH Inventory

Several formats for inventory making already exist in the field of ICH, specifically in the area of crafts, traditional music, dance, manuscripts, and traditional knowledge about nature by different groups, institutions, and individuals.

Since 2011, the first step in the making a national ICH inventory has been attempted. Website offers a collective ICH database of a variety of well-known institutions and organizations engaged in culture. The national ICH database also has a link to the current and on-going nomination, documentation, attachments, and audio-visual materials of the chosen elements. The respective ICH elements are also part of a larger database collected from regional institutions.

Although many of the existing efforts undertaken by public institutions, private entities, NGOs, or individuals across India, in terms of significance, a national inventory is required to document the multifaceted aspects of India's intangible cultural heritage.

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

A national policy is necessary for the safeguarding of intangible heritage to protect tradition bearers in terms of sustenance of relevant aspects of heritage.

The following issues need to be addressed:

- A detailed field survey is required to document the intangible heritage of India region-wise.
- Consultation on inventory-making aspects.

- Training of resources
- Sub-regional meeting for safeguarding ICH.
- The technical support is necessary for managing the database.
- International conference/seminar on safeguarding ICH needs to be organized.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Culture

Community Involvement

Basically, Indian society ensures the involvement of the communities in safeguarding ICH. Indian authorities are planning to adopt a new “Scheme for Safeguarding and other Protective Measures in the Area of the Intangible Heritage and Cultural Diversity” with the involvement of communities, local government, and civil society to ensure wide participation. Furthermore, there is an active civil society engaged in the cultural life of the country, which undertakes initiatives and activities in all aspects of culture. The civil society actors have helped to develop international standards of practice in the field of preservation and conservation of heritage and play an instrumental role in influencing legislation and policy in the country.

Remarks

India is among the few countries in the world where the continuity in its indigenous craft, traditions, beliefs, and skills have survived over centuries, which makes this nation a rich repository of intangible cultural heritage. For many communities and groups in the country, the intangible cultural heritage is an essential source of an identity, deeply rooted in the past.

In this respect, this report emphasizes that there is need to focus on two areas: the safeguarding of local ICH and the development of methods to promote cultural diversity at the national level.

TURKEY

- Ratified the ICH Convention in 2006; conducted survey in 2013
- As of December 2014, has twelve ICH elements on the RL and ten accredited NGOs

Safeguarding System and Policy

Turkey has treated ICH as an object of protection and a precious treasure of the nation, based on the Law on Organization and Functions of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Law No: 4848), established and enacted in 2003. Based on this law, Directorate General of Research and Training under the authority of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) was designated as executive body.

Following issues are identified as the main duties of the Directorate General of Research and Training under the authority of MoCT:

- research, inventory making, archiving, registration, promotion, establishing expert commissions for determination and registration of ICH elements
- developing cooperation and coordination with national and international institutions for ICH

The ICH branch was founded in 2008 to implement the Convention properly. The branch was expanded and established as Department of Turkish ICH in 2011. After that, provincial directorates of MoCT in eighty-one cities and representatives from related institutions (Public Education Center, Municipality, NGOs, and universities) and the bearers of ICH have formed ICH boards.

MoCT has continued work for a new safeguarding system and policy in Turkey. As well as having intangible cultural heritage experts, Turkey and Turkish authorities are open to cooperation and exchange of opinions with the all range of experts in the country.

ICH Inventory

There are two national inventories in Turkey: the Intangible Cultural Heritage National Inventory and the Living Human Treasures National Inventory. At least once a year, the inventories are updated with information about new identification and selection.

Each inventory is ordered by five categories as stated in the 2003 Convention:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the ICH
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Pending Issues and Urgent Needs on Safeguarding ICH

Many cultural elements are disappearing in Turkey. Main reasons for this include:

- the loss of transmitting methods
- younger generations lacking knowledge about cultural elements
- new lifestyles and the interference of technology in every field of life

Concerning the future plan for safeguarding ICH, two kinds of effort are needed in Turkey.

First of all, appropriate legislation is needed to safeguard ICH. Although there are adequate legislative measures for the protection of cultural heritage concrete steps have not been taken yet. Another issue is that the Turkish government should increase the roles and responsibilities of NGOs.

Main Governmental Body in Charge of ICH

Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Directorate General of Research and Training

Community Involvement

Although there is no direct mention about community involvement in the report, we can find some evidence of community involvement in the section of intangible cultural heritage inventory and in the section of the Representative List.¹⁴

The report suggests that there are attempts to unify the participation of different groups, such as individuals, institutions, and communities, by the Turkish government. These efforts have included the establishment of local administrative bodies for devising an inventory of ICH, developing safeguarding policies, raising awareness and encouraging public participation in inventorying, and safeguarding ICH. Therefore, the new inventory system aims at reflecting cultural heritages which are valuable for local communities.

Remarks

In Turkey, the relationship of the intangible cultural heritage and local sustainable development will be more crucial as Turkey expects the sufficient economic development in the near future. More discussions are needed to focus on the effects or interaction of new technologies as well as the cultural economy and cultural industries on intangible cultural heritage.

¹⁴ More information can be find in Section V of the report.