

II. National Center of Cultural Heritage

1. Institute Overview

The National Center of Cultural Heritage is a competent and professional body for protecting tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The ICH Protection Division at the National Center of Cultural Heritage was established in 2008. The ICH Protection Division* is a responsible unit at the national level for protecting, advertising, and documenting (audio-video) ICH elements; identifying and registering ICH bearers and helping bearers transmit their skills and knowledge to the next generation; and establishing and improving the consolidated registration and information database and its archival management.

*(Under the auspices of UNESCO and with Japanese Funds-in-Trust, the National Center of Intangible Cultural Heritage was designated as a non-government organisation in 1997. With UNESCO support, the Center implemented the *Documentation of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mongolia with Audio and Video Recordings* project, which set the groundwork for establishing the database and archive for oral and intangible cultural heritage. Under the request from the National Center's administrative council and the Education, Culture and Science Minister's Order of 2008, government status was given to the National Center and accordingly it joined the Center of Cultural Heritage as one of its Division.)

Also attached is the Constitution of Mongolia, which contains provisions that specially recognise and guarantee protection to intellectual property rights

The National Center of Intangible Cultural Heritage was established in 1988, under the name Restoration and Conservation Studio of Museum Items. At that time, Mongolia was on the edge of political change towards democracy, which created a positive approach for scholars, scientists, writers, and young politicians to criticise the poor methods of preserving, restoring, and conserving historical and cultural properties and museum items that resulted in grave damage or loss of many items and properties. According to the arisen need to restore and conserve the museum items that had been kept for

seventy years, since the first museums were established in Mongolia, the Ministry of Culture established the Studio. In 1989, the studio moved to a newly equipped facility for restoring and preserving cultural properties. In 1996, in association with the new amendments made to the Law for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage, the Center officially became a government agency with new name—Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia. Along with the name change came a restructuring, which created two units, the Conservation and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Heritage and the State Fund for Registration and Information of Historical and Cultural Heritage. In May 2009, an additional division, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Division, was established in accordance with changes made to the structure of the Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia. Since its establishment, the ICH Protection Division created the National List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the National List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and the ICH Information and Registration Database System for all possible ICH elements present in Mongolia.

ICH Protection Division's contribution to ICH-related activities in cooperation with other relevant organisations includes the following.

- preparing the nomination file for the Mongolian traditional music of Tsuur to the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
- hosting a symposium, 'On the Issues of the Safeguarding and Promoting of Mongolian ICH'
- holding a workshop on implementing the UNESCO Living Human Treasure programme in Mongolia
- having an international symposium, 'Mongolian Khuumei' in Ulaanbaatar
- organising a national seminar, 'Significance of Sacred Sites on the Conservation of Cultural and Biological Diversity'
- holding the Mongolian Long Song Festival in Uvurkhangai province
- attending a seven-day seminar, 'The 3rd Training Course for Safeguarding of ICH' in Kyoto, Japan
- successfully conducting ICH field surveys in nine Mongolian provinces of Mongolia—Khentii, Dornod, Tuv, Dornogovi, Govisumber, Uvurkhangai, Arkhangai, Selenge, Orkhon
- preparing the national List of the ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding as well as the ICH Representative List of Mongolia

- preparing the general rules for ICH designation and recognition of the and its bearers, and a rule for prefectural advising subcommittee for designation and recognition of the ICH bearers

Throughout Mongolia, covering all the administrative, there are *aimags* (province), *soums* (administrative units subordinate to a province), districts, and *khoroos* (administrative units subordinate to a district).

ICH Protection Division at the National Center of Cultural Heritage is specialised in the following ICH domains.

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of ICH
- Folk performing arts
- Social practices, rituals, and festive events
- Traditional technique, knowledge, and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship

The National Center of Cultural Heritage is a state-funded government organisation. Other affiliated organisations are listed below.

Culture and Arts Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia

Culture and Arts Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science manages national policy on arts and culture and develops and formulates Mongolia's culture and arts policy and revisions to them.

National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers

The Committee was established by order of the Education, Culture and Science Minister in 2009. The Committee, a supernumerary organisation with consultative rights to cabinet members and minister in the ICH field, is the body that regulates issues related to researching and identifying the original forms of ICH elements existing in Mongolia; designating and recognising ICH bearers and regulating their relations with the government; providing cooperation and support for registering ICH and its bearers; selecting adequate safeguarding measures; and documenting and transmitting these elements to the next generation.

2. Information Building and Sharing

The National Center of Cultural Heritage has done or is doing the following activities.

- Identification
- Documentation
- Inventory making
- Database/Archive building
- Publication and distribution
- Using digital contents

Since the Center's ICH Protection Division is responsible at the national level for protecting, advertising, and documenting (audio-video) ICH elements and identifying and registering ICH bearers, it respectively focuses on all activities stated above. However, the ICH Protection Division, for the last three years, has not fully established a coherent system constituting these activities, but it was able to set the groundwork to their further effectiveness.

The Center successfully implemented the project *Elaboration of the Inventories of the Representative List and List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in Mongolia* in 2011.

Background of the Project

Mongolia ratified the UNESCO Convention in 2005. Since then, Mongolia has been implementing measures for safeguarding ICH in its territory. The elements of Mongolian Traditional Folk Long Song (multinational including PRC), Mongolian Traditional Festival—Naadam, Mongolian Tradition Art of Khuumei, and Falconry (multinational including twelve countries of Asia and Europe) were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List, and the elements of Mongolian Epics, Mongolian Traditional Music of the Tsuur, and the Mongolian Traditional Folk Dance—Bii Biyelgee were inscribed on the UNESCO Urgent Safeguarding List.

With aims of safeguarding ICH in Mongolia and promoting ICH bearers, the government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science established three national lists—National Representative List of ICH, the National List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and the National List of ICH Bearers Possessing High-Level Skills and Knowledge. The government and

ministry are also working towards annually updating the above lists. In the framework to further improve and develop the lists and to designate and implement safeguarding measures, there is a need to establish a system for identifying and designating the ICH elements in cooperation with the concerned communities, groups, and relevant non-government agencies.

The aims of the *Elaboration of the Inventories of the Representative List and List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in Mongolia* project are to implement the above objectives to renew the national ICH lists, to establish the rational mechanisms for identifying ICH bearers, to establish a national registration and information system of ICH and ICH bearers.

Successfully establishing and implementing the above system are fundamental in developing further coherent sets of research and safeguarding activities. Therefore, we have focused on conducting and organising the primary registration work for existing ICH and bearers at the national level. Accordingly, the effective implementation of registration work was considered a main source for further activities and was thought of as the main objective to implementing in the project framework.

Context of the Project

The objectives to implement in the project framework are as follows.

1. To conduct a survey and organise a questionnaire with aims to evaluate and analyse the current situation of the safeguarding system, and to identify and designate ICH elements and bearers in Mongolia at the national level
2. To develop and provide a methodology and advisory for conducting and organising the primary registration work for the ICH and its bearers and distribute the work to all *soums*, provinces, and city districts, to publish and distribute the relevant handbooks and catalogues for introducing, and to organize seminars in these fields
3. To establish a permanent and rational mechanism for the nation
4. To raise the public awareness and increase involvement and participation among concerned communities, groups, and relevant non-government organisations in activities of implementing the identification of ICH and its bearers
5. To conduct and organise the monitoring activities and provide a methodology and advisory for the primary registration work and the

establishment of the registration and information database for ICH and its bearers at the provincial and local level.

6. To document some ICH elements with audio and video recordings that were identified during project activities
7. To conduct the national registration work for identifying ICH elements and bearers and to renew and develop the registration and information database for the ICH elements in the National ICH Lists
8. To organise a national symposium, 'The Current Issues for Safeguarding the ICH', and a seminar, 'The Establishment of the National Registration and Information System of ICH in Mongolia', involving ICH experts, researchers, scholars, professionals, bearers, and information and registration officers

Procedures of project

The project was implemented, covering every region and local administrative unit and involving every designated professional from all provinces and units for a period of one year.

Outcomes/Effects

By implementing the project *Elaboration of the Inventories of the Representative List and List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in Mongolia*, the following results were achieved.

1. With aims to safeguard the ICH of Mongolia and promote ICH bearers, the following inscriptions were made, 70 elements on the National Representative List of ICH, 18 elements on the National List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and 100 individuals on the National List of ICH Bearers Possessing High-Level Skills and Knowledge.
2. Before implementing this project, ICH inventory making was being done poorly and partially without a particular system or regulations. Following this project, however, we were able to establish the primary steps towards developing a systematic and permanent inventory that can be developed and improved annually.
3. Before implementing the project, involvement in ICH inventorying activities covered smaller areas and only in places the research teams visited. As a result of implementing project, we could conduct the "primary registration work of ICH and its bearers" at the national level, covering every administrative unit existing in Mongolian territory. Thus, the inventorying scope expanded to a national level.

By employing and designating the right personnel as ICH registration and information methodologists and officers, acknowledging their responsibilities and providing them with the necessary working regulations and advisories at the primary stage of ICH inventorying in *soums*, in *khoroos*, and at the middle stage of provinces and districts, we were able to establish a permanent operational mechanism of the national registration and information system of ICH and its bearers.

4. While implementing the project, we could conduct the “primary registration work of ICH and its bearers” for the first time, covering 85 per cent of all the administrative units in Mongolia, including 283 out of 329 *soums* of 21 provinces and all 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar. Overall, 88 ICH elements were identified and registered, and 3339 individuals were identified as ICH bearers.
5. Overall, fifty-seven ICH bearers and their skills and repertoire were documented with audio and video records. Fifty of these are practicing performing arts; two are practicing traditional social practices and rituals, and five are practicing traditional craftsmanship.
6. By providing an increased involvement and participation of the public, concerned ICH communities, groups, and individuals in the activities for identifying the elements in the National Representative List and List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and their bearers, we could set the groundwork for establishing the information database for further annual development and improvement. In addition, every *soum* and province have created their own ICH lists that include the elements they pride, and they took responsibility to further safeguard and transmit these elements to the younger generation.
7. By successfully implementing the project, public involvement has increased as has ICH awareness and understanding as well as the importance of safeguarding ICH.
8. In the framework of the project, the knowledge and methodology on safeguarding, researching, identifying, and documenting ICH have significantly improved among cultural administrative individuals, researchers, information and registration officers, ICH bearers, and other relevant individuals.

The National Center of Cultural Heritage obtains ICH-related data or archives through fieldwork and documentation. During fieldwork, the types of data collected include text, photos (digital; printed), videos (digital; tape: Betacam, DV, VHS), and audio (digital; audio cassette). Data relevant to the ICH elements existing in Mongolia are collected. Data are collected for archive, awareness-raising, transmission, and dissemination purposes. The National

Center of Cultural Heritage (State Registration and Information Fund/Database) is the rightful owner of the collated materials.

The National Center of Cultural Heritage is a competent and professional body for protecting tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The ICH Protection Division is a responsible unit at the national level for protecting, advertising, and documenting (audio-video) ICH elements; identifying and registering ICH bearers and helping bearers transmit their skills and knowledge to the next generation; and establishing and improving the consolidated registration and information database and its archival management.

In the framework of ICH information building and sharing, the National Center of Cultural Heritage implements all the activities including collecting, inventorying, registering, documenting, digitising, disseminating, advertising, and using information. To conduct these activities, the National Center of Cultural Heritage goes through many stages: a stage for preparing, a stage for collecting and creating information, a stage for maintaining information, a stage for processing and producing information, and a stage for using and disseminating information. Therefore, it is highly possible that issues and problems concerning ICH intellectual property and copyrights—problems regarding complying with the country's laws and regulations or customs, identifying the nature of rights existing on ICH, determining ICH ownership, obtaining prior informed consent or approval, maintaining collected information, sharing benefits, copying and reproducing ICH, or any other problems—could arise during the organisation's ICH information building and sharing processes.

Since its establishment in 2009, the ICH Protection Division has set the groundwork for various ICH information building and sharing activities, with aims to safeguard and transmit ICH elements to the next generation, including documenting ICH with photo, audio, and video records, and specific registration form (Registration Form of ICH and Its Bearers, approved by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science); establishing the registration and information database; and producing and distributing the materials for research, advertisements, and training purposes. Although the ICH Protection Division also was able to conduct several activities in identifying ICH and its bearers, valorising, popularising, and transmitting, it has not yet faced any major issues or problems concerning intellectual property and its copyright.

3. IP Issues in Information Building and Sharing

Intellectual property and ICH copyright issues in particular are poorly observed at the National Center of Cultural Heritage. There is little understanding or knowledge concerning intellectual property and copyright issues among concerned organisations, individuals, and the general public. From one point of view, Mongolia began understanding and implementing copyright regulations only since 1995; and from another point of view, there is a little knowledge and understanding among copyright owner organisations and individuals, thus there is little capacity to fully exercise their rights. In addition, the law is not feasibly being implemented at the concerned ICH information building and sharing organisations.

Accordingly, there is a need to develop a rule from the National Center of Cultural Heritage with detailed regulative guidelines concerning ICH intellectual property and copyright issues that could arise during the activities of collecting, using, sharing, and protecting information.

There is no statement concerning the ICH intellectual property and copyright issues in the National Center of Cultural Heritage's Operational Directives. There is no department, unit, or individual responsible for ICH copyright at the organisation. Therefore, there is an immediate need to have the National Center of Cultural Heritage's organisational and operational directives amended and to have a special unit or department for this purpose.

The ICH Protection Division, within the framework of the activities regarding safeguarding ICH, identifying ICH bearers, and documenting and transmitting, cooperates with ICH bearers, researchers, experts, and professionals within the regulations of partnership, contracts, government organisational policies, rights, and responsibilities.

In the Rule for the Establishment of Cultural Heritage Registration-Information Database and its Registration, approved by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, it is stated that 'At their own request, the registration information of concerned organisations and individuals will be kept secret; the copyright of audio and video records of any organisation or individual is protected under or according to the concerned laws and regulations.' Other than this statement, there are no provisions regarding the ICH intellectual property and copyright issues. The concerned laws and regulations mainly consider the Law of Mongolia on Copyrights and Related Rights and the Law for Protection of Cultural Heritage.

The National Center of Cultural Heritage has regulated ICH intellectual property or copyright related issues within the Laws and the Rule for the Establishment of Cultural Heritage Registration-Information Database and its Registration in general. Other than these laws and one rule there are currently no guidelines, protocols, and rules concerning the intellectual property and copyright issues.

The National Center of Cultural Heritage does have a case of guaranteeing the rights and the participation of ICH subjects in its information building and sharing activities. For instance:

Establishing the National Registration-Information System for Intangible Cultural Heritage is one of the main priorities in the framework for implementing the UNESCO 2003 Convention at the national level. Relying on territorial and administrative infrastructure and organisation, the National Center of Cultural Heritage is implementing the Consolidated Registration-Information System for ICH. The national inventory is categorised as oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of ICH; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship—the same ICH domains identified in the UNESCO Convention. In previous years, the extent of the ICH inventorying activities was localised to places where research teams had been. In last three years, it has expanded to a consolidated registration-information system covering every administrative unit existing on Mongolian territory. Competent bodies/organisations were designated, proper personnel were employed and empowered as ICH registration-information methodologists and officers, their responsibilities were acknowledged, and the necessary working regulations and advice was provided at the primary stage of ICH inventorying in *soums*, in *khoroos*, and at the middle stages in provinces and districts. In so doing, a permanent operational mechanism for the National Registration-Information (Inventory) System was set. In 2010, the “Primary Registration Work of ICH and its Bearers” was conducted for the first time, covering 85 percent of all administrative units in Mongolia. Overall 88 ICH elements and 3,339 individuals as ICH bearers were identified. Covering 314 soums and 9 districts, the re-registration in 2011 has increased the number of individuals identified as ICH bearers to 5,701. The results of the registration census are a valuable asset gathered as a source to further elaborate the short and long term objectives, policies and programmes for safeguarding and transmitting ICH.

The National ICH Inventory System is responsible for the following:

- The registration and information of ICH and its bearers existing on Mongolian territory (written research materials, photo, audio, video recordings, and other relevant materials);
- National representative list of intangible cultural heritage and its tentative list of ICH to be added to the National representative list;
- National list of ICH in need of urgent safeguarding;
- National List of ICH Bearers Possessing High-Level Skills and Knowledge

Currently, there is documentation of skills and knowledge, technique, traditions, customs, practices and repertoires of more than 1600 individual culture bearers with photos, 720 hours of audio-visual material and 215 hours of audio recordings housed at the National Archive. These documentation materials, gathered to form the ICH Database, are a valuable resource for further research and study, and to safeguard, revitalize, promote, disseminate and transmit the Mongolian intangible cultural heritage.

During the periodic reporting sequence, realistic improvement has been observed in the establishment of the National ICH Inventory System.

The National ICH Inventory System is being implemented using based on Mongolia's territorial and administrative infrastructure and organization. The national inventory is being conducted under the categories of: oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship, the same intangible cultural heritage domains identified in the UNESCO Convention.

To ensure the accuracy of subsequent measures and activities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, special care and attention was given toward establishing a comprehensive inventory and process, in order to properly implement the "Primary Registration Work of ICH and its Bearers" as the groundwork for establishing the permanent 'National ICH Inventory System.' In previous years, the extent of the activities of intangible cultural heritage inventorying was localized to places where research teams had been. In last three years it has been expanded to the consolidated registration and information system covering every administrative unit existing on Mongolian

territory. Competent bodies/organizations were designated, proper personnel were employed and empowered as ICH registration and information methodologists and officers, their responsibilities were acknowledged, and the necessary working regulations and advice was provided at the primary stage of ICH inventorying in *soums*, in *khoroos*, and at the middle stage of provinces and districts. In so doing, a permanent operational mechanism for the National Registration and Information System of ICH and its Bearers were set.

The cultural centres at *soums* and districts are the responsible entities to conduct the primary stage for structuring the ICH inventories at the local levels. The provincial and city registration and information database was created based on the data gathered at the *soum* and district levels. The responsible entities at the middle stage for inventory making are the provincial departments of education and culture and the city departments of culture and arts.

The primary and middle stages of inventorying consist of following registrations.

1. The registration of ICH existing in the territory of that administrative unit
2. The registration of ICH bearers (written research materials, photo, audio, video recordings, and other relevant materials)
3. Tentative list of ICH along with relevant evaluation, identification, and research materials further to be added to the National List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
4. Tentative list of ICH along with relevant evaluation, identification and research materials further to be added to the National Representative List of ICH.

ICH expressions are included in the list according to the following criteria.

- The element should be demonstrated as valuable asset for its community, group, or individual and be recognised as part of their cultural heritage providing them with sense of identity and continuity serving as an invaluable source of interaction or sharing with others
- The element should maintain its authenticity and hold the characteristics of rareness and uniqueness

- The environment should be closely associated with and maintaining the distinctiveness of the traditional livelihood, environment, folk customs, and manners of that locality and community
- The element should demonstrate its significance for human creativity
- Special attention should be given to those elements threatened by disappearance

Individuals are designated as ICH bearers according to the following criteria.

- The bearer should be a recognised and acknowledged as being highly skilled culture bearer in his/her community
- The bearer should possess high-level skills of the original forms of the ICH element, including the distinct characteristics, techniques, repertoire, and school
- The bearer should possess the ICH element in connection to his/her livelihood and traditional customs and rituals
- The bearer should be experienced in training and transmitting his/her knowledge and skills and have the ability to conduct training

According to the statements specified in the clause of the Mongolian State Cultural Policy (to take the creators and inheritors of invaluable cultural heritage under State protection, proposals of professional experts and resources of research materials), sixty-five individuals were included in the National List of ICH Bearers Possessing High-Level Skills and Knowledge in 2003, and an additional thirty-five were included on the same list in 2010 and were rewarded with certificates.

The Law for Protection of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia regulates the classification of cultural heritage, particularly intangible heritage that is unique, valuable, or regular according to its authenticity and uniqueness, artistic value, geographical range, and extent of the practice. Each of them is identified for protection at the local, provincial, or national level.

According to the above regulation, the viability of the element is taken into account in following ways.

- The element identified is subject to being protected at local (provincial) levels (not threatened by disappearance)

- The element identified as valuable is subjected to being protected at the national level (elements included in the national representative list and the list in need of urgent safeguarding and elements in the tentative list to be added to the national lists)
- The element identified as unique is subject to being protected at the national and international levels (elements inscribed in the UNESCO ICH Lists)

As stated above, several registrations of ICH and bearers exist. The general registration is conducted on the formal and standardised Registration Form at the national level. The Registration Form consists of the following items:

- State registration and information number
- Name of the element, its correspondence to the relevant domain
- Information about the ICH bearer
- Detailed contact information of the ICH bearer
- Information of the ICH (element's origin, history, legend, etc.)
- Notes of ICH bearer's movement (migration)
- Information about inheritance (what generation practitioner, place and period of learning, practicing, mastering, etc.)
- Customs associated with the element (manners and characteristics of practicing)
- Current state and viability of the element, and measures for its safeguarding and transmission
- Items being kept in the registration and information database/archive (photos, negative tapes, audio/video recordings, academic/research materials, reports, publications, books, articles, and other such relevant materials)
- Full name of the registration and information officer and the date the registration was made.

Method and Frequency of Updating Inventories

The ICH registration and information database at the local level is considered the source of cultural heritage information. This ICH database is kept at provincial and local (*soum*) museums and research departments. The ICH registration and information system is designed to be updated, enriched, and improved annually. Proper personnel such as ICH registration and

information officers were employed and empowered at these museums and departments.

The registration of ICH and its bearers is conducted on an annual basis according to the schedule below.

CYCLE I

- Period: January, February, March
- Acceptance of applications from communities, groups, and individuals at the local departments of education and culture in *aimags* and cultural centers in *soums*.

CYCLE II

- Period: April, May, June:
- Evaluation and selection by provincial sub-committees for selecting and designating ICH and bearers
- Elaboration and consolidation by the National Center of Cultural Heritage

CYCLE III

- Period: July, August, September:
- Elaboration and consolidation by the National Center of Cultural Heritage
- Selection and designation by the National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers
- Approval by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

According to the above schedule, the Primary Registration Work of ICH and Bearers was conducted for the first time in 2010, covering 85 per cent of all the administrative units in Mongolia, including 283 out of 329 *soums* of 21 provinces and all 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar. Overall, 88 ICH elements were identified and registered, and 3,339 individuals were identified as ICH bearers. Covering 314 *soums* and 9 districts, the re-registration in 2011 has increased the number of individuals identified as ICH bearers to 5,701. The results of the registration census are valuable resources to further develop the short- and long-term objectives, policies, and programmes for safeguarding and transmitting ICH.

To provide the active involvement of and public interest in establishing the registration and information database, a series of ads about the Registration of ICH and Bearers were regularly run through public (national and local) media, newspapers, and advertisement centres. As a result, many applications from concerned individuals, groups, and communities were received and reviewed. The application forms consisted of questions including the name of the element possessed, level of skill and knowledge, relevance to what form of technique and school, detailed information about the ICH bearer, information about the inheritance (what generation practitioner, place and period of learning, practicing, mastering, etc.) and information of the ICH (element's origin, history, legend, etc.). If available, relevant materials (introduction, certificate, accessories, etc.) were attached to the application forms. As stated in the Rules of Selection and Designation of the ICH and its Bearers, the decision to include ICH elements and bearers in the national lists is decided by the committees concerned, based on evaluations and analyses of the experts.

The government of Mongolia encourages and promotes non-governmental organisations in the field of protecting cultural heritage, ICH communities, groups, and individuals and their efforts toward active and creative collaboration and cooperation. Currently, there are more than thirty relevant non-government organisations and groups in Mongolia actively engaged and working toward safeguarding and promoting ICH and its bearers, including the following.

- Mongolian Association of Morin Khuur
- Mongolian Association of Folk Long Song
- Association of Mongol Khuumei
- Center of Mongolian Benediction and Ode Minstrels
- Association of Mongolian Naadam Festival
- National Center for Developing the Mongol Ger
- Association of Mongolian Folk Performing Arts—Bii Biyeleg
- Association for Transmitting the Folk Dance Bii Biyelgee
- Treasure Heritage—Bii Biilgee
- Apprenticeship Training Center
- Research Academy of National Costumes
- Association of Hunnu Tsuur Players
- National Wrestling Federation
- Association of Eagle Hunters
- Eagles of Tsarm Society
- Eagles of Altai Club

- UNESCO-Accredited Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Traditional Archery Association
- Research and Information Center for Mongolian Sacred Sites
- Mongol Tuuli.

These non-government entities each in their own ICH field are working to protect the rights and interests of ICH bearers and to preserve, develop, and transmit their distinct techniques, skills, and knowledge to younger generations.

Representatives from the above NGOs, communities, and groups are members of the National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers and participate with full rights in decision making for identifying, selecting, and designating ICH elements and bearers.

National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers

In 2009, the National Committee for Selecting and Designating ICH and its Bearers was established to provide professional and methodological administration and regulations for implementing the National ICH Registration and Information System. The Committee consists of twenty-two individuals, including the Director General (Education, Culture and Science Vice-Minister), Deputy-Director (Head of the Government Implementing Agency—Culture and Arts Committee), Secretary-General (Head of the ICH Protection Division at the National Center of Cultural Heritage), and representatives from non-governmental organisations from each ICH field.

Members of the Committee are divided into six expert teams in the following fields.

1. Cultural theory, history, cultural management, marketing
2. Oral traditions and expressions, including language
3. Performing arts
4. Social practices, rituals and festive events
5. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
6. Traditional craftsmanship and technique

Based on the conclusions and proposals of the provincial expert teams, the National Center of Cultural Heritage develops the tentative draft of the National Representative List of ICH, National List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, and the National List of Designated ICH Bearers Possessing

High-Level Skills and Knowledge with additions of proposed ICH elements and bearers. At its periodic meetings, the National Committee then evaluates and concludes the tentative draft and submits the finalised draft to the Education, Culture and Science Minister for approval. After approval by the Education, Culture and Science Minister, the designations become official.

With the same methodology as above, the subcommittees for selecting and designating ICH and its bearers at the local levels were established at the departments of education and culture in each province and in each district of Ulaanbaatar. The subcommittees consist of local experts, professionals, cultural activists, bearers, and representatives from relevant non-governmental organisations.

Individuals possessing high-level ICH skills and knowledge are selected from each province by the provincial subcommittees for selection and designation of ICH bearers and final designation is decided by the National Committee for Selecting and Designating the ICH Bearers. During the procedure, the national expert team members conduct evaluations and monitor. During the whole selection and designation process, these individuals are officially registered in the registration and information database, and their repertoires are documented with audio and video recordings.

Rights of Subject Guaranteed

Bearers are provided with an official certificate, Intangible Cultural Heritage Bearers Possessing a High Level of Skills and Knowledge, approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and rewarded with honorariums as well. With the support and promotion through the government, the bearers train the new generation of ICH bearers and are provided with monthly or yearly salaries for the work done.

Measures in the Field of ICH Safeguarding and Information Building and Sharing

A. Promoting the function of ICH in society and integrating its safeguarding into planning programmes;

The government of Mongolia had constituted legal empowerment aimed to safeguard, increase, and promote the social functions for ICH.

The State Great Khural adopted the State Cultural Policy of Mongolia Document in 1996. The document states of its use as the basis for developing, drafting, and improving any relevant law, resolution, or act. The document comprises the following:

- To prevent and take any necessary precautions against the national culture being absorbed by another culture or threatened by disappearance or the intellectuality of the nation to fade or diminish
- To consider the tangible and intangible cultural heritage as national treasures and take this heritage under state protection
- To take creators and inheritors of invaluable cultural heritage under the state protection and provide them with freedom and rights to freely create and produce, transmit, and inherit their indigenous techniques, knowledge, and skills to the next generation;
- To equally respect, promote, safeguard, and develop the diverse cultural heritage of different ethnic groups
- To encourage and promote any creative activities of individuals and organisations toward safeguarding and disseminating cultural heritage
- To encourage and promote educational institutions and organizations of all levels to implement the comprehensive and coherent set of inheritance and upbringing activities for children and instilling the children with a sense of love and respect towards traditional culture and knowledge.

These statements had their direct relevance to the regulation of legislations, acts, and resolutions in terms of protecting cultural heritage, particularly the intangible cultural heritage. In conforming to this document, the State Cultural Law was adopted in 1996 and the Law for Protection of Cultural Heritage with separate chapter for ICH protection was adopted. These laws serve as the legal basis for protecting ICH.

In the 2008 document, 'Endorsement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-based Comprehensive National Development Strategy of Mongolia', state provides support to preserve, protect, and restore tangible and intangible heritage of Mongolia and make it accessible to national and global education.

Programmes, rules, and regulations with aims to safeguarding ICH are developed in conformity with the abovementioned documents and legal statements. As a consequence, it can be considered that the adequate legal

environment for ICH safeguarding has been set. It is undeniable that there is an inevitable need to further revise and amend these legal documents to conform to changes in society.

B. Fostering scientific, technical, and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding

For the last six years, research and analysis were carried out, conforming to the Convention's ideology and objectives. The governmental and non-governmental organisations and cultural and scientific organisations have held more than thirty academic, theoretical, and practical conferences, symposiums, and seminars at the national, regional, and international levels. One significant research project carried out by the National Center for the Intangible Cultural Heritage with support of UNESCO in the field of ICH safeguarding was the field survey on Researching the Traditional Heritage of Morin Khuur.

The objectives of the field survey were as follows.

- To survey the tradition of local characteristics of *morinkhuur* music in different localities and gather all relevant and varied information and materials
- To survey the traditional technique and school of *morinkhuur* performance and the skill and knowledge of *morinkhuur* players
- To identify the past and current state and extent of *morinkhuur* music and its further trends in development
- To identify the State policy and social factors influenced in the tradition of the *morinkhuur* music and its development, their positive and negative trends;
- To identify the measures for safeguarding traditional *morinkhuur* music and the participation of government and non-government entities, the general public, bearers, cultural activists, and artists in transmitting the heritage and supporting and promoting local efforts.

The survey was conducted in 2005 in four regions—the Western, Eastern, Central, and Gobi regions. The field survey covered 65 *soums* of the following provinces: Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Khentii, Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Dundgovi, Umnugove, Tuv, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor, and Govi-Altai. Overall 193 individuals from Khalkha, Uriankhai, Uuld, Zakkhchin, Bayad, Durvud, Khoton, Barga, Uzemchin, and Dariganga ethnic groups were identified.

The outcomes and results of the field survey were as follows.

- Various melodies of *morinkhuur* and *ikel* traditions of local characteristics of the performance technique, school, and repertoire were documented
- The extent of the practice of *morinkhuur* traditions increased in the diverse traditional, ritualistic, and customary practices conducted in local vicinities and livestock-breeding households
- A registration and information database archive for the traditional *morinkhuur* music, associated customs, and a relevant list of *morinkhuur* players, catalogue, photos, and audio and video recordings was created
- Favourable conditions and environment for safeguarding and transmitting the traditional *morinkhuur* music through formal and non-formal (apprenticeship) training were provided.

One significant research project carried out in the framework to increase the effectiveness of safeguarding was the Joint Field Survey of the Experts and Scholars of Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation. Consisted of forty experts, scholars, operators, and other professionals from Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation, the joint research team covered 40,000 km distance while conducting the eight surveys among Mongols residing in the three countries. During the surveys, 300 *urtiinduu* (long song) singers were interviewed, 170 hours of audio-visual documentation were created, and more than 500 songs were recorded and documented.

As a result of these joint surveys, a multinational registration and information database archive of long songs and singers was established; the composition and performance of *urtiinduu* and its variant melodies, lyrics, and contents were compared; and the origin and authenticity of *urtiinduu* were identified. The symposium, 'Customs and Traditions of Nomads' was organised by the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations. As a follow-up, *Study on Customs and Traditions of Nomads*, which covered the contents presented at the symposium, was published and distributed.

- C. Facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

New programmes and projects proposals are currently being developed to improve and facilitate access to the information and materials being kept in the archive of the National Center of Cultural Heritage.

The National Center of Cultural Heritage, the National Museum, the Research Institute of Culture and Arts at the State University of Culture and Arts, the Institute of Language and Literature at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations are regularly publish articles covering methodology information, as well as research and analysis. In addition to city and *aimags* museums, various specialised museums have been created with the support of private individuals and non-governmental organisations, including the International Intellectual Museum, the Mongol Costumes Museum at the National Research Academy of Mongol Costumes, and the Museum of Traditional Accessories and Harnessing Used in Animal Husbandry at the State University of Agriculture.

Cooperation in the Field of ICH Safeguarding

A. Educational, awareness-raising, and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular to young people

The groundwork to include ICH in general education programmes in schools was established. In conforming to the State Cultural Policy of Mongolia and the president's decree 'to encourage and promote educational institutions and organisations of all levels to implement a comprehensive and coherent set of inheritance and upbringing activities for youth and children, to instil them with love and respect toward traditional culture and knowledge', the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science added a new course called Education of Citizenship to educational programmes for grades I, II, III in General Education Schools by.

Many other subjects—Mongolian *ger* (traditional dwelling), *morinkhuur* (horse-headed fiddle), folk long song, *khuumei* (overtone singing), *biibiyelgee* (folk dance), traditional costume, Mongolian Naadam Festival, Celebration of Tsagaan Sar (Lunar Month Festival), traditional customs of greeting, traditional customs associated with animal husbandry, and traditional knowledge of protecting nature—are being added to the general education materials for students between the ages of six and eight. General education materials, a guide for teachers, and the *I am Mongolian* video

training materials were produced in collaboration with experienced teachers and cultural activists.

B. Educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned

Educational and training activities for raising awareness of the importance of safeguarding ICH have been carried out over the last six years. Heritage education and training activities are being regularly conducted by the government and cultural and scientific organisations at the national, regional, and international levels. TV programmes and series with content and issues related to ICH safeguarding are being broadcast through the General Broadcasting System, the Education TV channels, and other national and local broadcasting systems. Relevant reference books, magazines, catalogues, articles, and training materials for advertisement, transmission, and dissemination are regularly updated or published.

For raising awareness, advertising, and popularising traditional cultural heritage and its bearers, the General Broadcasting System, the Education TV channels, and other national and local broadcasting systems are broadcasting a series of programmes with content covering Mongolian oral heritage, performing arts, traditional customs, practices, folk techniques and knowledge, and traditional craftsmanship.

As a result of the collaboration efforts of leading professional experts in each ICH field, a reference book called *Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Mongols* was published in Mongolian and English for the general public, researchers, and students. The catalogue contains information and photos of nine ICH elements inscribed on the UNESCO Lists, ICH expressions included in the National Lists of ICH, documents registered in the Memory of the World Register, and brief biographies and photos of bearers included in the List of Designated ICH Bearers.

C. Capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage

Since ratifying the UNESCO 2003 Convention, the government of Mongolia has been implementing long- and medium-term serial programmes nationwide to safeguard ICH elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative and Urgent Safeguarding Lists. For instance, the government implementing the Morin Khuur and Urtiin Duu Programme

between 2005 and 2014, the Mongolian Traditional Bii Biyelgee Programme between 2009 and 2014, and the Mongol Khuumei Programme between 2008 and 2014. To implement these programmes at the local levels, the *aimags* and *soums* have developed sub-programmes and are undertaking activities to safeguard, promote, advertise, disseminate, and transmit these elements; to identify and designate the ICH bearers; and to provide bearers with relevant support and promotion.

The president issued decrees to honour and develop the *morinkhuur* (2002), to develop traditional archery (2002), to transmit and propagate the *urtiin duu* (2004), and to develop the art of Mongolian *khuumei* (2006).

As noted in the Law for Protection of Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2001, the Grand Festival of Folk Arts is to be held every five years nationwide. The Grand Festival of Folk Arts in 2006 promoted two elements of the UNESCO Representative List of ICH—Traditional Music of the Morin Khuur and Traditional Folk Long Song, Urtiin Duu. Participants included 800 long song singers and 800 *morinkhuur* players who were selected from all over Mongolia. The 2011 Grand Festival of Folk Arts covered in four ICH domains: oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, traditional customs and practices, and craftsmanship. The festival was organised in three stages, providing the greatest possible participation of governmental and non-governmental organisations, communities, groups, households, and individuals, reaching up to 65,000 bearers. Among them, 820 were selected to participate at the third stage in the capital city during the Naadam Festival.

The following criteria were taken into account for the selection of winners.

- The level of skill and knowledge of ICH bearers, the authenticity of the element, quality of product, and quality of performance
- The state of revitalisation of the ICH expressions threatened by disappearance or extinction
- The state of transmission (training and apprenticeship), research, and promotion of the element

Of the Festival's participant-bearers, 207 individuals were awarded with gold, silver, and bronze medals, and 100 individuals who have greatly contributed to promoting, safeguarding, transmitting, and developing traditional cultural heritage were awarded the title of State Merited Cultural Worker of Mongolia. Certificates of credentials from the Ministry

of Education, Culture and Science and the title State Leading Artist of Mongolia were conferred by the government. The *aimags* and districts (Tuv, Bayan-Ulgii, Khentii, Umnugovi, Khovd, Uvurkhangai, and Bayankhongor *aimags* and the Bayanzurkh district) that achieved success in implementing national *morin khuur*, and *urtiinduu*, *bii biyelgee*, and *khuumei* programmes were selected and provided with monetary awards.

To popularise and improve people's social functions, the government has given special attention to the individuals who have greatly contributed to the promoting, safeguarding, transmitting, and developing traditional cultural heritage and to culture-bearers possessing a high level of skill and knowledge of ICH elements.

Since 2006, A. Nergui (a long song singer at the National Song and Dance Academic Ensemble), Ch. Batsaikhan (*morinkhuur* player), and R. Samjid (a dance teacher and folk *bii biyelgee* dancer from Bayan-Ulgii *aimag*) were awarded with the state's highest title—State Leading Folk Artist of Mongolia—and G. Orgoi (benediction minstrel and herder from Mandal-Ovoo *soum* of Umnugove *aimag*), Ye. Tserendavaa (*khuumei* singer from Chandmani *soum* of Khovd *aimag*), D. Ulzii (Khalkha epic performer), and G. Dadisuren (long song singer and herder from Deren *soum* of Dundgovi *aimag*) were awarded with titles of State Honoured Cultural Activist.

D. Non-formal means of transmitting knowledge

The basic form of the non-formal method of transmission and dissemination, practiced for many centuries, is the traditional method of home-tutoring apprenticeship training.

The techniques of performance and lead-training play a predominant role in the apprenticeship training method. Genuine effort and creativity are required by the apprentices. The other form of non-formal transmission is the centralised training conducted at the local cultural centres, general education schools, kindergartens, and public/private organisations. Importance is given to creatively using these methods within the given circumstances of that locality or the element. In today's society, while the most of the population is living in or migrating to urban areas and cities, experimental research and observational activities are being conducted to further establish and improve other means of non-formal transmission methods, such as establishing clubs and groups with same interest,

organising joint exhibitions and performances, and unifying freelance artists for each ICH element.

E. Education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH

Projects were carried out in the field of traditional customs of worshipping sacred sites and the complex expression of ICH. With UNESCO support, the project entitled *Safeguarding the Diversity of Ecological and Cultural Heritage through the Tradition of Worshipping the Sacred Sites* was implemented by the Research and Information Center for Mongolian Sacred Sites. As a result of the project, a registry of 1,309 sacred sites in 283 *soums* and the associated customs and practices was created, and a book titled *The Territory of Mongolia—Cultural Heritage, and its Significance* was published and distributed.

A symposium based on this work was held to discuss issues of various worshipping practices and their relevance to safeguarding and transmitting ICH. In 2008, a joint ICH survey by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the National Center of Cultural Heritage was conducted in Uvurkhangai and Arkhangai *aimags* (located in the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape). Based on this work, a conference, ‘The Orkhon Valley—Birthplace of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Mongols’, and a training workshop, ‘Heritage Education’, were held in Kharkhorin *soum*.

Concerning the publication of books or media materials, no problems or issues relating copyrights or ICH-related intellectual property have been raised. As a standard practice in publishing books and manuals, a statement concerning copyrights is included on the back cover: ‘©This book is protected by the Copyright Law of Mongolia. The name of the author shall be included in any copy, duplication or transcription of this book’. In general, all references used for the book, including photos and texts, are stated on the last page of the book. Necessary IP or copyright regulations for possible issues, if any, are specifically stated in the contract and signed by both parties.

In most cases, the misuse of copyrighted materials is observed at the national level. But, to date, no complaints or issues of any kind have been noted, and this is due to the lack of a proper legislative framework for copyright and IP-related issues.

In cases to produce nomination files to inscribe national elements to the UNESCO ICH Lists, forms such as the Session of Rights and Register of Video Recordings for video materials and the Session of Rights and Register of Photos for photos are executed to grant UNESCO with the non-exclusive rights to use, publish, reproduce, distribute, display, communicate, or make available to the public, in any language or form and by any means including digital, in whole or in part. Again, to date, there have no issues raised from these activities.