

V. Meetings on Intangible Cultural Heritage

1. Vanuatu National Intangible Heritage Convention Workshop (2009)

The objective of the inter-departmental meeting is to bring together all Vanuatu governmental actors involved in the ratification procedure of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

As a follow-up to the first and second sub-regional meetings in the Pacific on the 2003 Convention (Fiji, December 2007 and Tonga, December 2008), UNESCO has organized a series of national consultation meetings to assist Pacific Member States in the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Convention. The Vanuatu inter-departmental meeting is the fourth national consultation meeting, following those of Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby, 18-19 March 2008), Fiji (Suva, 21-22 May 2008), and Tonga (Fua'amotu, 5 December 2008).

The meeting is aimed at providing governmental officers in different departments with information and assistance that might contribute to the ratification and implementation of the 2003 Convention. Legislation, programmes and activities related to the safeguarding of Vanuatu's intangible heritage, including Vanuatu Sand Drawings on the Representative List, were shared among the participants.

A. Name of the meeting

Vanuatu National Intangible Heritage Convention Workshop:
Inter departmental meeting about Intangible Cultural Heritage

B. Theme

Safeguarding of ICH

C. Duration

3-5 June 2009.

D. Venue

Le Lagoon Hotel, Port-Vila, Vanuatu

E. Organisers

- 1) Vanuatu Cultural Centre, PIMA (Pacific Islands Museums Association)
- 2) UNESCO Apia office.

F. Participants

- 1) Dr VisiesioPongi, Director of the UNESCO Pacific office based in Samoa.
- 2) MP Ralph Regenvanu, Director of VNCC (Vanuatu National Cultural Council).
- 3) Mr Lawson Samuel, from Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 4) SelwinGaru, Secretary General, Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs
- 5) Chief GratienAlguet, President, Chairman of Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs
- 6) Dr Emely Waterman
- 7) Honourable Patrick CrowbyManarewo, Minister for Internal Affaires responsible for cultural Affaires.
- 8) Honourable CharloSalwae, Minister of Education, Chairman of the Vanuatu UNESCO National Commission.
- 9) Members of the UNESCO National Commission
- 10) Directors and Directors General
- 11) Honourable participants
- 12) Staffs of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre
- 13) Dr Kim Selling, Pacific Islands Museum Association Secretary General and her communication officer Mr PierrickLesiness.

G. Speakers list:

[Wednesday, 3 June 2009]

- 1) Marcelin Abong (Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre)
- 2) Dr VisiesioPongi (Director of UNESCO Apia Office)
 - Introduction to the meeting
 - Overview of UNESCO's work in the Pacific in relation to Intangible Culture Heritage
- 3) Emily Waterman
 - Convention for the safeguarding of ICH
 - UNESCO Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention
- 4) Dr VisiesioPongi (Director of UNESCO Apia Office)
What does ratification imply (for Vanuatu and for UNESCO)?

[Thursday, 4 June 2009]

- 1) Marcelin Abong (Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre)
 - Policy, legal and institution frameworks for the protection and promotion of Intangible Heritage.
- 2) Dr VisiesioPongi (Director of UNESCO Apia Office)
 - Role of UNESCO National Commission and Implementing Bodies for the Convention
- 3) Emily Waterman

- Challenges for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in Vanuatu
- 4) Mr Lawson Samuel
 - Procedure to be a State Party to a Convention

[Friday, 5 June 2009]

- 1) Mp Ralph Regenvanu, Director of VNCC
 - Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage-Cultural Mapping
- 2) Dr VisiesioPongi (Director of UNESCO Apia Office)
 - The way forward
- 3) Outcome statement
- 4) A Way Forward for Vanuatu

H. Main Context:

- 1) Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2) Ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention of Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the Vanuatu Government.
- 3) Create an understanding on how preserve what is important in our cultures.
- 4) Preservation strategies.

I. Point of discussion

- 1) Introduction to the meeting
- 2) Overview of UNESCO's work in the Pacific in relation to Intangible Culture Heritage (power point)
- 3) Convention for the safeguarding of ICH (power point)
- 4) UNESCO Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention (power point)
- 5) What does ratification imply (for Vanuatu and for UNESCO) ?
- 6) Policy, legal and institution frameworks for the protection and promotion of Intangible Heritage.
- 7) Role of UNESCO National Commission and Implementing Bodies for the Convention (power point)
- 8) Challenges for the implementation of the 2003 Convention in Vanuatu (power point)
- 9) Procedure to be a State Party to a Convention (power point)
- 10) Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage-Cultural Mapping
- 11) The way forward
- 12) Outcome statement
- 13) A Way Forward for Vanuatu

J. Action Plan adopted

We the participants of the Vanuatu National Intangible Heritage Convention Workshop, represent a number of government ministries, statutory bodies, kastom leaders, practitioners and civil society bodies, who are concerned with

protecting, maintaining, promoting and passing on (safeguarding) our intangible cultural heritage for future generations. We therefore;

- 1) Acknowledge the step undertaken by the government to ratify the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- 2) Acknowledge UNESCO's and the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta's [VKS] assistance and support in organising this important meeting to discuss ways to ensure that Vanuatu's intangible cultural heritage is safeguarded.
- 3) Acknowledge the ongoing effort and support of the VKS and communities in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Vanuatu and call on all key stakeholders including NGO's to join together to safeguard Vanuatu's intangible cultural heritage to ensure its sustainability for future generations
- 4) Share disappointment on the absence of National Leaders and the Vanuatu National Commission for UNESCO during the proceedings of the workshop.
- 5) Look forward to the ratification of the 2003 Convention and in advancing Vanuatu's efforts in Safeguarding its intangible cultural heritage
- 6) Note the challenges in place once the 2003 Convention is in force in Vanuatu and that we are committed to overcoming these challenges with the cooperation of Vanuatu communities, government ministries and non government organisations;
- 7) Call upon the Ministry of Education to ensure that kastom and language becomes the foundation of education in Vanuatu;
- 8) Urge the government to take the necessary steps to protect the copyright, intellectual property and expressions of culture of our communities in Vanuatu;
- 9) Urge the government to prioritise culture in its budgetary allocation;
- 10) Recognise that kastom is important to all in Vanuatu and we urge the government to participate fully in safeguarding kastom and more importantly in intangible cultural heritage.
- 11) Call on the relevant authority to consider the role and location of the Vanuatu's National Commission for UNESCO [NatCom] that will be in the best interest of the communities in Vanuatu.
 - a) We also ask the relevant authority to establish guidelines for the operation of the NatCom;
 - b) Request the Vanuatu NatCom to fulfil its reporting obligations from the 2006-2007 Participation Programme, by June 30th 2009, to enable the communities to benefit from the funding available for the current and future funding cycle;
 - c) Request assistance from UNESCO to reorganize the NatCom

K. Follow-up activities

A Way forward for Vanuatu

- 1) Encourage a National Commission [NatCom] that can support Vanuatu as it safeguards ICH. This to include reviewing the role of NatCom.

- 2) Management structure
 - a) National Cultural Council to be designated as the authority for the 2003 Convention with the VKS as secretariat
 - b) NatCom involvement on the National Cultural Council - Commissioner for culture to be a member of the National Cultural Council
 - c) Establishment of an Advisory Committee, from the fieldworkers executive council working with the VKS

- 3) Cultural mapping – inventory
 - a) VKS database to be developed to be the basis of the inventory. Priority to be given to updating, supporting and assisting the work required to do this
 - b) Community involvement in creating inventory and gathering further information– with fieldworkers to identify priority areas and gaps to focus on for future research
 - c) Link these two activities together and run at same time. Allows the opportunity to pool resources and save time.
 - d) Proposal includes sourcing people and financial resources to carry out the database update and work with the field workers in collecting further information and research.

- 4) Develop an ICH Safeguarding Strategy for Vanuatu, this will includes;
 - a) Identifying what is at risk and should be inscribed on the List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
 - b) Identify what could be inscribed on the Representative List
 - c) Support review of curriculum to ensure strong kastom content
 - d) Support implementation of the Vernacular education policy
 - e) Strategic plan to address priority areas identified through cultural mapping carried out with the communities and the fieldworkers
 - f) Strategic plan to support, enhance and incorporate activities already being carried out in Vanuatu for instance;
 - Communityawareness
 - Promotevernacularliteracy
 - Traditionalknowledgeinto science curriculum
 - Restart regular arts festivals and source funding
 - Legislation to protect Traditional Knowledge and Expression of Culture
 - Traditional kastom economy
 - g) Establish more kastom schools and community cultural/learning centres
 - h) Significant increase into Government commitment; political and financial towards safeguarding Vanuatu kastom

- i) Support the National Council of Chiefs resolution to have 1 day a week set aside for kastom in conjunction with new curriculum supporting kastom
 - j) Ensure the governments effective implementation of the resolutions of the National Land Summit (2006)
- 5) Work towards sourcing funding from ICH fund or other funds to bring stakeholders together to develop a strategy/plan for future work within Vanuatu, ie. goals, timeframe, activities

L. Reference material

- Festivals of Sandrawing (Sandrawing Festival at Ambrym Island, 2009 or 2010).