VI.Pending issues & urgent needs regarding the safeguarding of ICH

1. Is any of the intangible cultural heritages in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation?

(Please include the name of the particular heritage, location, problems encountered, etc.)

For the moment, elements of intangible cultural heritage in danger of disappearance are in process of elaboration, and it was not accepted yet at the legislation level.

2. What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific.

The following factors can be indicated as crucial reasons which endanger heritage:

-urbanization and migration process: internal migration to Bishkek and Osh (in the south of Kyrgyzstan), in consequence people are in search of means of survival and have less possibility for cultural practices or less access to different communities.

-many Kyrgyz citizens, mostly from rural area are moving to Russia or Kazakhstan to work as traders or in the construction area. According various sources, 500 000 up to one million people are outside of the country. This creates many problems: such as, lost of the connection with the country, crisis of cultural identity and weakness of Kyrgyz diasporas in Russia, which can provide an appropriate inside communication and community consolidation.

-globalization process (or economic development), some rural citizens prefer buying commercial (for example) Chinese products, such as some parts of yurts or cradle.

3. **What are the pending issues for safeguarding ICH in your country that you have found through interviews and the field survey?**

- Adoption of necessary legislation such as law on Manas, on intangible heritage, as well as national inventory documents.
- Raise importance of the safeguarding ICH in the country through mass media and public debates, discussing the following questions. What is Intangible cultural heritage? Why it is important and why it should be safeguarded? Such discussion at the public level would enlarge understanding of the safeguarding ICH.
- Adoption of statute for the safeguarding ICH concerning different elements: such as akyn - tellers, manas, aitysh etc.
- Acceleration of the inventory process and make it available for the broader social levels.
- Creation of the consortium of associations, NGOs, state bodies with involvement of international organizations.

4. **What kind of problems and difficulties were encountered during the safeguarding projects?**

- Capacity building. Most of the non-governmental organizations do not have appropriate structures for the leading role, means sufficient stuff
- Absence of institutional consolidation in the issue of safeguarding projects. Each institution, researcher, both state and NGOs conducts their own project without having proper consultation for better project management and fundraising.
- Financial sources. Most of both state and NGO are highly dependant on external funds rather than elaborating their own politics towards potentiality of local budget.
- "Bureacratism" and rigid attitudes to the safeguarding projects from the governmental side. It is accustomed to approach cultural safeguarding projects as something time and money consuming.
- Mass media one-sided campaign, as mentioned above, there is fixed stereotype that cultural heritage is highly connected with economic growth and sustainability. This public discourse should be broken in providing alternative model of development of intangible heritage, considering both national agenda as well as specific local logics of development.

5. What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?

Adoption of statute at the legislation level (Manas epos and law on ICH).

6. What type of contributions and cooperation from the international society is needed for the safeguarding of ICH in your country?

- Expertise, cultural management expertise as well as fundraising skills
- Financial sources, subventions oriented to specific projects
- Organizational activity in terms of mediating process of institutional unification
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7. What role do you expect ICHCAP to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region in terms of programmes, projects, etc.?

- Leading role in the institutional cooperation, elaboration of the united conception of ICH, fostering of creation of a consortium/ national association in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Exchanging expertise and bringing it from other places where such projects in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage were more and less successful.
- Stimulating different projects in global/comparative perspectives in the field of intangible cultural heritage.
- Bringing experience from South Korea.
- Fostering applied research such field as applied cultural anthropology and other fields providing knowledge on social negotiations with local populations.

8. Please include any requests and/or suggestions you have on this matter. Advocacy is the key action in the safeguarding of the ICH.

- It would be crucial to organize series of public discussions in the TV, concerning the value of intangible cultural heritage, impact of the Soviet Union on this. The following questions should be raised:

-what is intangible cultural heritage?

-why and how it should be safeguarded?

- Organisation of the round table in one of the institutions and identify both state bodies and NGOs which specializes in the safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage.
- Mass-media including broad internet activities would increase social awareness in the safeguarding the ICH.
- Creation of the web-site on ICH.

9. What should be considered to encourage or to ensure active involvement from the community in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage?

The following factors should be considered to encourage or to ensure active involvement from the community in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage:

- Cultural and local social practices should be taken into consideration. Post-soviet logic of perception of state politics or external aid is often an obstacle. Paternalistic attitude of local people or even NGOs make this activity as not realized enough at all levels and constitute often a whole industry rather than embedded to the local reality cultural practice.
- Deficit of managerial and fundraising skills. Despite of numerous training conducted by different organization, there are still a lot of problems in managing various projects.
- Socio-economic factors. Due to migration and unemployment in rural area, many people do not pay attention to the safeguarding intangible cultural heritage project as not anything beneficial for them.
- Difficulty in establishing networks among NGOs, an appropriate way should be found. We can still see the problematic completion between different NGOs in the regions, which interferes in uniting efforts when issue concerns broader safeguarding intangible cultural heritage projects.