

V. Pending Issues

1. Pending issues for safeguarding ICH as found through Interviews and the field survey

Q1. Ratification of UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding ICH

It is most appropriate to echo the recommendation already voiced by the Unimane in 2011 that Kiribati ratifies as a matter of urgency the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding ICH. This is to ensure that all the issues surrounding the safeguarding of ICH in all its forms are addressed. This will avoid further deterioration of artefacts and enhances the protection and safeguarding of ICH in Kiribati in line with principles laid down in the said Convention.

Q2. Policy on ICH in Kiribati

It is strongly recommended that the Policy may need to be developed and adopted and may include, among others, the concepts reflected in UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding ICH in particular, Article 15²⁹ that allows the community participation, (i) the importance of co-ordination by the Ministry in charge of cultural affairs of the cultural related activities of other ministries, (ii) fostering entrepreneurial developments by youths in the area of trade of cultural products with local and overseas entities, (iii) infrastructural development of existing government institutions in accordance with Article 21(e)³⁰ including enhancing storage capacity of artefacts and books of traditions, and (iv) Staff development in accordance with Article 21, (c)³¹ must also form part of the Policy.

²⁹ Participation of communities, groups and individuals

Within the framework of its safeguarding activities of the intangible cultural heritage, each State Party shall endeavor to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management.

³⁰ – Forms of international assistance

(e) the creation and operation of infrastructures

³¹ (c) the training of all necessary staff

Q3. International Assistance on the creation of National Inventory

It is strongly recommended that upon Kiribati becoming a State Party to the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding ICH, the Government of Kiribati seeks assistance for the establishment of a National Inventory in line with the meaning of Articles 20 (b),³² 12³³ and 23³⁴ of the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding the ICH.

It is further recommended that Kiribati must comply with the requirements of Article 24³⁵ so as to play a reciprocal role in safeguarding ICH.

³² Purposes of international assistance

International assistance may be granted for the following purposes:

- (a) the safeguarding of the heritage inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding;
- (b) the preparation of inventories in the sense of Articles 11 and 12;
- (c) support for programmes, projects and activities carried out at the national, subregional and regional levels aimed at the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
- (d) any other purpose the Committee may deem necessary.

³³ Inventories

1. To ensure identification with a view to safeguarding, each State Party shall draw up, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory. These inventories shall be regularly updated.
2. When each State Party periodically submits its report to the Committee, in accordance with Article 29, it shall provide relevant information on such inventories.

³⁴ Requests for international assistance

1. Each State Party may submit to the Committee a request for international assistance for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory.
2. Such a request may also be jointly submitted by two or more States Parties.
3. The request shall include the information stipulated in Article 22, paragraph 1, together with the necessary documentation.

³⁵ Role of beneficiary States Parties

1. In conformity with the provisions of this Convention, the international assistance granted shall be regulated by means of an agreement between the beneficiary State Party and the Committee.
2. As a general rule, the beneficiary State Party shall, within the limits of its resources, share the cost of the safeguarding measures for which international assistance is provided.
3. The beneficiary State Party shall submit to the Committee a report on the use made of the assistance provided for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage

Q4. International Assistance on information on well-known ICH elements

It is recommended that the GOK may include in future technical assistance by UNESCO in accordance with Article 11, (b)³⁶ how best well-known ICH elements in Kiribati are identified.

Q5. International Assistance on the identification of ICH elements designated on the national inventory

It is recommended that the Kiribati Government must identify the important question with UNESCO's technical Assistance³⁷ so that ICH element designated could be identified as if there is a national inventory.

Q6. International assistance on the identification of ICH element designated on the non-governmental inventory

It is strongly recommended that the GOK seeks UNESCO's technical assistance in terms of UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding ICH in particular Article 21, (a) and (b)³⁸ for the purpose of an in-depth study by Kiribati to see how best it could react to the question in the absence of a non-government inventory.

³⁶ **Article 11 – Role of States Parties**

Each State Party shall:

- (a) take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory;
- (b) among the safeguarding measures referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3, identify and define the various elements of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory, with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations.

³⁷ **Article 19 – Cooperation**

1. For the purposes of this Convention, international cooperation includes, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience, joint initiatives, and the establishment of a mechanism of assistance to States Parties in their efforts to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage.

³⁸ **Forms of international assistance**

The assistance granted by the Committee to a State Party shall be governed by the operational directives foreseen in Article 7 and by the agreement referred to in Article 24, and may take the following forms:

- (a) studies concerning various aspects of safeguarding;
- (b) the provision of experts and practitioners;
- (c) the training of all necessary staff;
- (d) the elaboration of standard-setting and other measures;
- (e) the creation and operation of infrastructures;
- (f) the supply of equipment and know-how;
- (g) other forms of financial and technical assistance, including, where appropriate, the granting of low-interest loans and donations.

Q7. International Assistance on the identification of uninscribed ICH elements on a non-governmental inventory as if the non-governmental inventory exists

It is recommended that the GOK seeks UNESCO's technical assistance as how best information on uninscribed ICH elements on a non-governmental could be identified.

Q8. International assistance on the identification of community as sought in the question and whether does Kiribati need to organize them

It is recommended that the Government of Kiribati must seek UNESCO's technical assistance as to identify if the community as sought in the question presents in Kiribati and if there is none to determine whether Kiribati needs to transform certain communities which have potential of becoming cultural oriented into the type of communities sought in the question.

Q9. Establishment of LHT

It is recommended that the GOK seeks UNESCO's technical advice in this area by addressing the question of LHT, appropriate training and other assistance to the LHT should Kiribati requires.

Q10. Strengthening non-government support system and other traditional methods of transmission

It is recommended that the GOK seeks UNESCO's technical assistance to addressing the issue of a non-government supported system and other traditional methods of transmission, their relevance or non-relevance to Kiribati and to determine the best position for Kiribati in these two areas.

2. Pending Issues

ICH in danger in Kiribati: traditional maneaba, nabanaki, the baangota sacred places, gravesites of kings and other important people.

Recommendation No.1: Revival of traditional Maneaba

It is recommended that the GOK initiates measures to revive the maneaba system taking into account the situation that has led to their disappearance. This needs to be done collaboratively with the community and with the technical assistance of the UNESCO. Islands included in this revival measures are Nonouti, Onotoa, Beru, Nikunau, Tarawa, Marakei, Maiana, Kuria, Aranuka and Abemama.

Recommendation No.2: Nnabakana on Teabuaeroa

It is recommended that Government of Kiribati seeks further assistance from development partners (as it has acquired in the past from EU and SPC) and in particular UNESCO to revive Nnabakana. Stones that have collapsed must be re-erected as matter urgency. The support and participation of the communities on Tabiteuea North must be sought before work is carried out.

Recommendation No.3: Baangota, Gravesite and other sites of cultural importance

It is recommended that the GOK must seek the support of both local governments on the islands and the community for the maintenance of the Baangota, Gravesite and other sites of cultural importance. All islands throughout the archipelago are included. The assistance of UNESCO in this important undertaking must be sought.

Recommendation No.4: Churches and other buildings of western architecture, old military buildings, and remains of the phosphate industry, old settlement sites in the Line Islands and other artefacts of cultural importance.

It is strongly recommended that local governments on the islands of Abaiang, Banaba, Beru, Nikunau, Nonouti, Tabuaeran, Teraina, Kiritimati along with the concerned communities and GOK must take appropriate measures of protecting the concerned ICH cultural related matters with the assistance of development partners including UNESCO

3. Problems and difficulties encountered during the project:

Cultural officers from headquarters, for official business during the course of the survey, were periodically absent, especially when they were required for consultation.

The type of co-operation from the international society or sub-region is needed for safeguarding of ICH in Kiribati:

Appropriate trainings for cultural officers at policy level are needed.

Office equipment such as multi-media projector, appropriate camera, appropriate tape recorder, machine appropriate for retrieving cultural information from old cassettes and tapes to keep safely old data. Appropriate security against fire to ensure maximum safety of ICH in all its forms housed in the C&MD, NL and NA.

Appropriate educational and training programme to enhance understanding of ICH are needed not only at staff but also at the community levels. The concepts of LHT, other traditional methods of transmission and regular training workshops needed to be organized at both the official and community levels.