



IMPLEMENTING THE UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The National Institute of Culture and History serves as the Government of Belize's implementing agency for the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level. In fulfilling this mandate there have been a series of workshops with key cultural stakeholders to create cultural awareness and understanding about the convention. Funding for the national workshops was provided by the Government of Japan with technical assistance from UNESCO.



National Workshop on the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2012)

In order to assist in the implementation of the workshop at the National Level, technical assistance was provided by UNESCO in the form of a 5 day workshop. The workshop familiarized participants with the Convention, as well as examined safeguarding measures in local and regional contexts. 28 persons from various cultural groups and organizations participated. The workshop was complemented by a field trip to a nearby community as a showcase of local ICH elements. The end of the workshop resulted in the drafting of a joint declaration between the participants and the National Institute of Culture and History regarding the implementation of the Convention.



Countrywide District Level Workshops on Intangible Cultural Heritage (2013)

In August 2013, countrywide workshops were conducted in six districts across the country. These 2 day workshops were a condensed format of the 5 day national workshop held in November 2012, and were facilitated by personnel from the National Institute of Culture and History. The workshop provided an introduction to the ICH Convention and sensitized cultural stakeholders about safeguarding practices and initiatives within their communities. Over 100 persons from over 48 cultural, educational and social organizations across the country participated. One output of the workshop was a compilation of various Intangible cultural forms specific to the district and communities in Belize.



National Workshop on Community - Based Inventorying of Belize's Intangible Cultural Heritage (2013)

An eight day workshop on community - based inventorying was held from the 1 - 9 October in Orange Walk Town, where 30 participants received training on how to commence the inventorying process of ICH in their communities. Participants included persons who attended the national workshop in November 2012, and those who attended the district level workshops in August 2013. The participants represented various cultural and social organizations from across the country. The workshop concluded with the drafting of an action plan for inventorying ICH and the selection of a pilot project activity. A working body was also selected to commence a six month pilot project for the inventorying of "Belize's Cultural Celebrations."



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