



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2021
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

Museums Galleries Scotland

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Museums Galleries Scotland

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90257

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Museums Galleries Scotland
Address: Waverley Gate 2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG UK

Telephone number: 0131 5504100

Email address: admin@museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Website: www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Other relevant information:

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr

Family name: Traynor

Given name: Joe

Institution/position: Head of Museum Development

Address: As above

Telephone number: 0131 550 4136

Email address: joet@museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The UK has not ratified the Convention, however, the Scottish Government has shown its support for ICH through endorsement of the National Strategy for Museums and Galleries and the inclusion of ICH in the new National Culture Strategy. MGS regularly advises the Scottish Government on projects associated with ICH and the Minister retains a keen interest in the progression of ICH in terms of recording and safeguarding in Scotland.

¹. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

B.2. *Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS is in dialogue with the Department for Culture Media and Sport (UK Government) through engagement with UK Wide cultural organisations sponsored by DCMS. Advances in the perception on ICH have been made through this period through MGS directly engaging with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which now considers ICH as an aspect of its funding remit, and other heritage organisations such as Historic Environment Scotland, who have published strategic intentions concerning ICH nationally. Great progress is being made integrating ICH into policies on a UK wide and Scottish basis. More engagement with UNESCO UK would be welcomed.

B.3. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).*

Not to exceed 250 words

The UK has not ratified the convention, so does not provide a Periodic Report.

B.4 *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The UK has not ratified the convention, so does not make nominations to the Lists

B.5. *Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

During 2015, Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) redeveloped the ICH in Scotland website in order to make it easier to navigate and easier for communities and individuals to contribute to, and also to make it more compatible with new mobile devices. Since this time, MGS has chosen to initiate partnership working with other cultural institutions across Scotland in order to develop a co-ordinate approach across the nation.

Using our website as a basis, MGS has partnered with Historic Environment Scotland, Creative Scotland and Traditional Art and Culture Scotland on a pioneering project to map current practice and knowledge of ICH in Scotland across crafts, traditional skills, built heritage practice, dance, theatre and community participation, as well as object based heritage interpretive practices.

This project will enable deeper understanding of the variety and range of ICH archives in Scotland across all disciplines and may potentially promote joint working and recording or endangered ICH practice on conclusion of the final report – due March 2021. This has the potential to significantly increase activity on our ICH website and boost the recording of ICH immeasurably. It is very likely that ICH will be a key feature of national heritage practice in The Year of Scotland's Stories in 2022. This, in turn, will provide a springboard for increased activity.

In addition, MGS provides regular updates to the Scottish Government on progress against this project to ensure that ICH remains on the national and UK wide policy agenda.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS has been helping to mainstream ICH through recent work for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and working with organisations such as Historic Environment Scotland in the production of strategic statement. Working with The Scottish Government of the production of The National Culture Strategy for Scotland has enabled ICH to become embedded in this articulation of national practice and work continues on how to ensure that measuring engagement reflects our success in this area.

In our new innovative partnership across the cultural heritage policy landscape in Scotland, we are working towards a joined up approach across all national institutions to promote the function of ICH through engagement with the Year of Scotland's Stories in 2022. This national advocacy campaign, placing Scotland on the international stage, will ensure a heightened engagement with ICH and provide a suitable platform to launch new programmes to foster renewed community participation across all cultural heritage platforms.

This builds on our continuing work engaging communities and academics with our ICH website.

B.7. Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

We are delighted to be able to report success in this area. Our partnership project has interviewed potential participants across many types of community and this, in turn, enables the MGS to target particular communities and areas of engagement. Our strong links with Scottish Universities has seen a real engagement with the potential of ICH in academic students and research, including recording and safeguarding which is enabling new generations of students to understand ICH in its importance in the national cultural landscape. Further work will be undertaken with communities and community venues as our programme of engagement with The Year of Scotland's Stories is developed.

At the end of our initial mapping exercise – due in March 2021, the partnership will re-examine its membership and purpose. Discussions are already underway to ensure that Place making and natural spaces become a key aspect of the ICH conversation on a national basis.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS attended the NGO Forum in April 2019 and found it very beneficial and informative indeed. In addition, MGS has assisted the Scottish Government on sharing information and best practice around ICH with Ministerial delegations from Norway and Iceland over the past year. These discussions have focussed on how small nations can plan to engage their communities around ICH and the benefits of partnership working to maximise the impact of ICH recording across cultural heritage.

Work in partnership with universities in Scotland, particularly Heriot-Watt and Napier Universities, has ensured the beneficial exchange of good practice and research methodologies to ensure that the work of MGS has impact and academic rigour as well as promoting the involvement of students and researchers with ICH work.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- D.1** *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS participated in the NGO Forum meeting of April 2019. Following this meeting, we embarked on a period of re-examination of our work on a national basis to form partnerships to pursue ICH across the cultural heritage landscape. As the only NGO in Scotland, and one of two in the UK, we would welcome further opportunities to participate in Committee meetings and engage in particular with UNESCO UK. MGS also anticipate working more closely with ICOM over the coming years to further develop our ICH networks, in particular the International Committee for Collecting (COMCOL) and the International Committee for Education and Cultural Action (CECA).

- D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

MGS has provided informal advice. We would be happy to provide specialist advice in the future and would also be willing to take part in training and career development opportunities associated with our potential advisory service duties.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

English. A small number of staff have French and Spanish

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Yes. We have experience of supporting museums with advice and grants to deliver programmes involving traditional crafts, traditional building techniques, storytelling, drama and traditional music.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS has expert skills in this area.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our Marketing and Communications Team (3) have expert experience in drafting synthetic texts in English.

E.5. *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

Not to exceed 250 words

MGS is keen to share experiences and learn from others. We have engaged with colleagues in both Norway and Iceland over the past year and would be willing to share our practice as we develop our new partnership approach. As above, we are also aiming to develop our relationships with UNESCO UK, and the International Committee for Museums. As a relatively small NGO, access to budgets for international travel and engagement may make sustained international travel and engagement prohibitive.

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

Working on our national partnerships to further engagement with ICH in Scotland has been a priority over the last year. We intend to build on our relationships with UNESCO and our involvement in its work over the coming review period. We are extremely proud of our NGO status and are planning to ensure that our work in this area, under the auspices of UNESCO, continues and thrives.

G. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

H. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Joe Traynor

Title: Head of Museum Development

Date: 11th February 2021

Signature: J Traynor