

**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 2023
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:
[HTTPS://ICH.UNESCO.ORG/EN/FORMS](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.*

Stowarzyszenie Serfenta

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

The Serfenta Association

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

No. 90373

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: the Serfenta Association

Address: Srebrna 1 street, 43-400 Cieszyn, Poland

Telephone number: +48 507933191

Email address: biuro@serfenta.pl

Website: www.serfenta.pl

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.): Ms

Family name: Adamska

Given name: Paulina

Institution/ position: The President

Address: Srebrna 1 street, 43-400 Cieszyn, Poland

Telephone number: +48 507933191

Email address: paulina.adamska@serfenta.pl

Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

¹ . In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. 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 contribution to strengthening *institutional and human capacities* for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Serfenta Association from 2008 has worked constantly in the same direction: for the safeguarding, promoting and transmission traditional craftsmanship, an intangible culture heritage: a basketry. The daily work of our organization is dictated to the basket making at the local, national and international level. At this point, two activities directly related to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention can be highlighted:

The inscription of the skills of weaving from spruce roots on the national list of ICH (completed 2023) and the engagement of preparing the inscription of Polish basketry skills on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity carried out together with the communities of basketmakers from all over the country (ongoing).

In the field of strengthening institutional and human capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, it's worth emphasizing that Serfenta is a close-knit team of people who work full-time every day, our place of daily work. The core of the team consists of 5 people, but we additionally employ about 10 basketmakers, master craftsmen to cooperate with products and about 5 handicraft instructors to run services, including basketry workshops. We are a thriving and self-financing non-governmental organization that operates independently of public grants. Our development, is a proof that there is a place for cultural heritage on the market, what makes it alive, needed, corresponding to actual human needs. We stay in constant touch with our clients, for example participants of the workshops, so we are aware what the traditional crafts can offer to modern man.

B.2. Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the *transmission of and education* for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Education and transmission are the base for all activities in the ICH topic in our opinion. We've created an educational system with many levels, which base on the conviction that craft experience should be available for everyone. During our activities, we start from the basic manual skills and experiences, but also we have many advanced propositions for all, who want to continue the craft path.

During the years we created a space to connect young generations with traditional skills and a wide knowledge. We believe that the transmission is the way to economization, and this is the way to safeguarding the crafts.

Our own original educational program addressed to the whole society

- more than 3000 craft experiences for 20000 people
- workshops in any kind of places – museums, art galleries, design fairs and festivals, big cities and small villages, schools and corporations, in Poland and also abroad: Germany, Norway, Iceland, Japan, South Korea and everywhere where people are interested
- 4 governmental projects for connections basketry masters with their young pupils "Masters of Tradition"

² . For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

- math lessons how to calculate the price of handwork
- an educational proposition – “Craft Tour” - an answer for modern people needs
- a system of teaching the basketmakers – how to sell the products to a modern world (using Social Media)

Every point of this system is important, but especially the work with children, because they will create the future of a craft. The responsible and conscious society is valuable and precious.

B.3. *Describe your organization’s participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The basis of our activities is ethnographic research among traditional basketmakers conducted in Poland and abroad (also the Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Ukraine, Iceland). In recent years, we have travelled to the next places on the map of Poland to meet and document the work of basketry masters: e.g. central and eastern Poland: weaving from cattail, east and south of the country: hazel and pine roots, Podkarpacie region: willow and others. This part of our work is described in 3 popular-science publications, which we published: „On the basketry trail of Vistula River”, „Viva basket! Why do we weave?”, „Basketry in Cieszyn Silesia region” (available in PL/ENG).

We have also devoted the last years to the implement the entry of spruce weaving skills on the Polish ICH List. We organized a promotional campaign regarding this tradition, which culminated in a meeting and voting of the local community for this entry. Whole process is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zl6iDxxSdYU&t=81s>

We cooperate with regional and national institutions – for example in Poland with the National Heritage Board responsible for the implementation of the Convention, also local governments, public and private museums from particular regions. The scope is national and international. Our Partners from abroad: basketry oriented institutions, for example ZEF European Basketry Culture Center in Lichtenfels, Germany, but also ICH institutions: the CICS, Center for Intangible Cultural Studies from the Republic of Korea, National Research Institute for Cultural Properties from Tokyo, Japan, The Sunnhordland Museum and Sore Skogen from Norway.

B.4. *Describe your organization’s participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

From the very beginning of the ratification of the Convention in Poland, Serfenta was invited to participate in the process of its implementation in our country. This process took place through a series of conferences and workshops organized mainly by the National Heritage Board of Poland, where the leader of Serfenta, Paulina Adamska, was invited to held a speech and lead the workshop process. The recipients were employees, activists and scientists focused around the ICH sector. Exemplary meetings:

How to protect intangible cultural heritage? Cooperation in the field of intangible heritage of non-governmental organizations, cultural institutions and local government units (2014); Good practices in protecting ICH according to the Convention on examples of selected activities from Poland (2015).

Our organization is actively involved in the Convention implementation processes by organizing our own proposals: conferences (several meetings in 2011 during the project “On a basketry trail of Poland), international projects like “Viva Basket!” Basketry as a living tradition in the context of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” conducted in cooperation with 2 Norwegian institutions. We were sharing the knowledge about intangible

cultural heritage and we were looking for the best ways of safeguarding using the examples from both our countries.

In our daily work, during meetings, lectures, workshops, we always share knowledge and experience which we gained about the importance of intangible heritage. It is still a new view at the cultural heritage in our country, which requires broader explanation.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the *role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society*. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

The daily work of our organization serves to promote ICH in many contexts: local (we are based in Cieszyn, in the south of Poland), national and international. We're conducting many promoting activities, via press and New Media ways. We've visited a popular program in Polish Public Television (1,000,000 viewership), the radio programs to tell about new ways of craft, we made really a lot of newspapers interviews. This is a good way to popularization, sharing information and creating a kind of "fashion" for craft among younger people. Thanks to the Serfenta's message, millions of people have the chance to meet and learn about the craftsmanship.

In our work promoting activities are really important, we're focusing especially in the young generations. We manage social media like: Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. This is the way to the young and modern people involved in virtual information.

The international events organized and hosted by Serfenta from recent years:

- The conference for basketry fair in Lichtenfels, Germany "Future for the Craft", 2022
- business mission, a visit in the Republic of Korea, Jeonju with the CICS, 2021, supported by Polish Ministry of Culture
- Festival "Baskets from Poland" in Tokyo, Japan, 2020,
- International conferences in the context of basketry and ICH: Viva Basket! (Cieszyn 2014) and Social Face of Basketry (Nowy Tomyśl, III World Festival of Wicker and Weaving 2015).

We also take a part in many international meetings with the lectures and presentations, cooperating with Finland, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Italy.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in *raising awareness* about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Serfenta Association conducts numerous basketry workshops, as well as presentations and study visits at our office and studio in Cieszyn, Poland. Thanks to our activities, the awareness of the uniqueness of the craftsmanship has been growing for years. We put special accent on building the awareness of the value of the heritage in younger generations, as well as outside the craft society. The youngster are important for us, as they need to appreciate the value that lies in ICH. Serfenta conducts activities in all age groups, from primary schools to the activities with adults of all ages, we also cooperate with representatives of the city, county and province.

We organize and participate in the events where craftsmanship, design and the modern market meet. For example: 4 Design Days (Katowice 2022), Craft on the Modern Market – 2 conferences in cooperation with the University of Silesia 2023, Gdynia Design Days 2017, 2021, Łódź Design Festival 2017, 2019, 2020, Silesian Science Festival 2022. It is important to spread awareness of the value of intangible cultural heritage also

The Serfenta Association takes part in many international activities. We constantly conduct promotional activities in UK, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Norway, Iceland, Finland and others. We present there Polish intangible cultural heritage from many domains. In 2022, in South Korea, we received the JIAPICH: international award for the promotion of the intangible cultural heritage as one of the 3 organizations from around the world. Our application serves now as a model on the website of our partner, the CICS from Jeonju City.

B.7. Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

Serfenta facilitates engagement in ICH-related activities by inviting broad audiences to participate in its activities. We have developed the craft experience for all educational program. We believe that the craft should be available for everyone. In our opinion the most important is a first step: to try, to touch, to smell. During our meetings, we always start from the basic skills and experiences by making the craft available for everybody. Even during a short meeting, our "learning by doing", we can share a huge part of knowledge – and not only the manual, basketry skills. It is also the value of handwork, knowledge and a deep understanding of: how much work we need to create a handmade object, how to calculate the price of the product. This is also a lesson how important is the nature (we work with local plant materials), culture, connections with the knowledge of previous generations and also with the future of the world. A part of this program is an idea of Craft Tour. We've prepared it after a long research of people needs – during and after the pandemic time, lockdown, unstable life situation. The people needs are changing with the times and with the world situations. We need to experience the world of craft and be closer to the nature. We need to find the answers for those needs if we want to be effective in the safeguarding of ICH. Our educational proposal is open for everyone during our meetings, workshops, presentations.

B.8. Describe your organization's engagement in cooperation 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.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Serfenta's work develops with the participation of different stakeholders from many various levels, regional, national and international. We have been inviting partners from the stage of conducting ethnographic research, which has started in 2008. A group of traditional basketmakers, individual craftsmen from the whole country were invited to share their knowledge and experiences. The publications, exhibitions and films, which are the results of this cooperation, were prepared in the cooperation with science (Silesian University), cultural (around 50 institutions from Europe) and local governmental partners. For example our engagement in the preparing the entries of the basketry skills on the ICH List resulted in cooperation with local communities and municipal offices from particular regions. Until now, we prepared 2 inscriptions on the ICH List (willow and spruce root weaving) in Poland.

We are cooperating with Polish and international institutions which are responsible for implementing the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH. In 2015 Serfenta was honoured by Polish National Commission for UNESCO with the Certificate of Appreciation for educational activities aimed at implementing the Convention.

Many different public and NGO institutions from the whole world are also invited to exchange. We're all the time in touch with Polish universities (especially of Fine Art), public libraries, museums, art galleries, design centres, ngos. Our recent contacts are : the Finnish Crafts Organization, IRCI International Research Centre for ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region, NOKS - an NGO from Surinam, Art for Refugees in Transition A.R.T.

B.9. Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

Not to exceed 250 words

Serfenta hasn't been involved in preparing the national Periodic Report.

B.10. 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

Serfenta hasn't been involved in preparing nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- ☐ Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- ☐ Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- ☐ Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- ☐ Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- ☐ Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- ☐ Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- ☐ Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- ☐ Financial support from the Participation Programme
- ☐ Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

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 sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

2 representatives from the Serfenta Association (Paulina Adamska, the President and Urszula Szwed, the business advisor) took part in UNESCO Symposium: Seventeenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Rabat, Morocco which took place 25.11. - 03.12.2022. They were invited with the presentation about work of our organization during part of the session which was especially prepared for UNESCO accredited NGO'S. The presentation was prepared especially for the subject of the Symposium:

Living heritage, climate change and the environment. We explained what is the role of our organization in the context of climate change and the craftsmanship, which is the craft experience for all.

Paulina Adamska and Urszula Szwed also took part in a few Working Groups during the Session: Overall Results Framework, Working Group on Research and Meeting of the Executive Board with working groups and regional groups.

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

Not to exceed 100 words

Our organization hasn't served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body.

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

Not to exceed 500 words

Our organization plans to participate in the next UNESCO Symposium, scheduled for December 2023 in Botswana. We would like to prepare proposals for the establishment of a new Working Group on the subject of NGO's economization and the interface between culture and business. We have a lot of experience in this topic. Our organization has undergone the process of economization itself. Throughout 2022 we operated without the help of external grants, the year 2023 looks to be similar. We learn to operate in business by treating intangible cultural heritage as an important segment of the market. This means independence from external subsidies and moving into the services we are providing (different kinds of workshops, lectures, trainings) are needed and interesting for the modern market, modern men, clients.

It also means we have to connect with many various recipients – public and private institutions, national and international, also those from other sectors – not only cultural institutions. We want to propose such an approach (for example in the form of workshops, Working Groups etc) for the participants of the UNESCO Symposium 2023. Experience gained so far, e.g. during the 17th Symposium, convince us that this is a very valuable and needed direction of development.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

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

Yes, our staff has very good command of English – in writing and communication. The engaged team with proper English language skills includes 2 persons: Paulina Adamska and Łucja Cieślak.

E.2. Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.

Not to exceed 250 words

My organization has experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains. During the part of our work connected with research, we were interested in collecting very wide information - also from the field of folklore, music, storytelling, chants. Because we were recording every interview (on the camera and voice recorder) with the traditional basketmakers, there is a big collection of recordings. Just a little piece is published and available on Serfenta Chanel on YouTube as well as on the CD, which is a part of the book "On the basketry trail of Vistula river" 2009, 2016.

Worth to mention is that one of our team member is experienced in leading a traditional singing group as well as in singing herself. For many years she was involved in the organization of meetings, concerts, workshops within this field of ICH.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

The Serfenta has been involved in obtaining public grants for about 15 years - including application forms, evaluation, reporting. The source of financing were public and private institutions in Poland, as well as international. We have completed dozens of local, national and international projects in the subject of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Documents directly related to applications for entries on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List in Poland are two separate applications related to national basketry entries, which were developed by the team of our association. One was created in 2016 and concerned the skills of weaving a basket called kabłacok from the village of Lucimia (approved in 2017), the other developed in 2022 (approved in 2023) concerns the skills of weaving baskets from spruce roots. Currently (2022-2023) Serfenta is in the process of preparing the entry of Polish basketry on the UNESCO Representative List together with basketry communities from all over the country. We are sharing with the knowledge and experience from our previous activities and already gained cooperations as well as with the vision for the future of the craft. It means in this applications a huge part will be coming from Serfenta's documents, materials and expertise.

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 organization has experience in drafting synthetic texts in English. We often work using English, as from many years (exactly from 2014) we cooperate with different international institutions - public and private, bigger and smaller. We have to use English in writing while sending important documents with our Partners, also with UNESCO. The good example can be the international publication, which we prepared during realization Viva Basket! Project in 2015. We invited authors from the whole world connected with the basketry craft: craftsmen, artists, researchers. Just to mention a few: Carlos Fontales from Spain, Lois Walpole and Mary Butcher from UK, Jette Melgren from Denmark, Roger Herriset from France. We asked the authors for their texts in English and when we received them, we were responsible for drafting and publishing them in online publication called "Why do we weave?". We also prepared the application in English for JIAPICH award in 2022, which included the written version of drafted text and documents. JIAPICH is Jeonju International Award Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage given by the Mayor of Jeonju City and the Center for International

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

The Serfenta Association has experience in working at the international level already. From 2014, when we led Polish-Norwegian project called Viva Basket! with 2 different institutions from Norway until today, we cooperate with many international Partners from the whole world. Our organization is very focused on international cooperation. Last year we were awarded with the JIAPICH Jeonju International Award Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage, as one of 3 organizations from the whole world. We took part in 17. UNESCO Symposium in Rabat, Morocco. It is important to mention also other international events organized and hosted by Serfenta:

- The conference for Korbmarkt in Lichtenfels, Germany "Future for the Craft", 2022 as well as series of presenting Serfenta's exhibitions and workshops 2016, 2019, 2022.
 - business mission, a visit in Republic of Korea supported by Polish Ministry of Culture, Jeonju with the CICS, 2021
 - Festival "Baskets from Poland" in Tokyo, Japan, 2020,
 - International conferences: Viva Basket! (Cieszyn, Poland 2014) and Social Face of Basketry (Nowy Tomyśl, Poland III World Festival of Willow and Weaving 2015).
- We're taking a part in the international meetings with the lectures and presentations, f.e.:
- Local Economies & Future Markets – Finnish Livind Project lead by Finnish Heritage Agency (2022)
 - "How to keep intangible heritage alive" business model presentation for NGO organizations from India, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Australia (2022)
 - Preparing the exhibition: All hands on basketry for The Museum of European Culture in Berlin, Germany (2022)

F. 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

G. Signature

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

Name: Paulina Adamska

Title: the President

Date: 13.02.2023

Signature:

**PREZESKA STOWARZYSZENIA
SERPENTA**

Adamska
Paulina Adamska