

# ST. KITTS AND NEVIS IS TAKING ACTION TO PRESERVE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE NOW, AND SAFEGUARD IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

CULTURE BEAT SKN TV - NEWS [25/04/19]

St. Kitts and Nevis is Launching a National UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Capacity Building Project, entitled “Strengthening Inventory Preparation Capacity for Implementing 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage) in St. Kitts and Nevis” On Monday April 29th 2019 at NEMA Lime Kiln Basseterre St. Kitts (Invitation Only).



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage



St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)  
UNESCO Capacity Building Project

# LAUNCH

“Strengthening Inventory Preparation Capacity for Implementing 2003  
Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)  
in St. Kitts and Nevis”

Venue : National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)  
Lime Kiln, Basseterre  
Date : Monday 29th April 2019  
Time : 9.00 a.m

For further information call 1-869-467-1396 or 1-869-661-4148

## SKN ICH UNESCO CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

The primary objective of this project is to develop an inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements in the twin islands federation of St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN) to continue safeguarding initiatives with full implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH beginning April 29th 2019.

## **The objectives include:**

1. Conducting national capacity building workshops for implementation of the 2003 ICH Convention with cultural stakeholders in SKN Communities, and members of the SKN ICH Organizing Team; St. Kitts Department of Culture-Research and Documentation Unit (SKDC-RDU), Nevis Historical Conservation Society (NHCS), and Nevis Cultural Development Foundation (NCDF) to create a knowledge base of people aware of the convention, and obligations.
2. Conducting Community level workshops with people from SKN parishes to build awareness about the ICH convention, then recruit trainers from the workshops to increase community buy-in for implementing the convention.
3. Conducting national workshops on Community-Based inventorying to teach members of the community skills, methods, and best practices required to identify, document, and develop an inventory of ICH in SKN. This will increase the human capacity necessary to do a national pilot ICH inventory in SKN, using participants from the capacity-building workshops.
4. Conducting a Pilot Inventorying exercise on ICH elements recognized by SKN Communities including elements in need of urgent safeguarding. This will be accompanied by the creation of an SKN ICH website in collaboration with SKN communities to provide information about SKN ICH elements, and current planned safeguarding initiatives at the public at the national and international level.
5. Conducting a national media campaign after the Pilot Inventorying Exercise to raise awareness about implementation of the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of intangible heritage, and ways Communities may wish to safeguard SKNs ICH.

## **What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?**

ICH is defined in the Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 17 October 2003 as the following:

### **Article 2 – Definitions For the purposes of this Convention,**

1. The “intangible cultural heritage” means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.
2. The “intangible cultural heritage”, as defined in paragraph 1 above, is manifested inter alia in the following domains:
  - (a) Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
  - (b) Performing arts;
  - (c) Social practices, rituals and festive events;
  - (d) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
  - (e) Traditional craftsmanship.
3. “Safeguarding” means measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection,

promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non- formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.

For more information contact the ICH Secretariat- St. Kitts located in St. Kitts Department of Culture Tel: 1(869) 467-1396

<https://www.facebook.com/stkittsnevisICHculture/>

**Press Release:**

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