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Safeguarding Living Heritage in Urban Contexts

Capacity-Building Workshop in Europe

12-13 October | Antwerp, Belgium

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unesco Chair on Critical Heritage Studies and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Methodologies and tools for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in urban contexts

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Intangible Cultural Heritage

Summary of methodological tools

Seven methodological tools are proposed for incorporating intangible cultural heritage safeguarding into urban planning processes. It is recommended that the tools be implemented sequentially, as a comprehensive approach can generate greater benefits in terms of safeguarding.

1. Mechanisms for effective coordination and participation
2. Identification of intangible cultural heritage elements
3. Analysis of the correspondence of living heritage elements to urban planning structures
4. Mapping of threats and benefits concerning the safeguarding of the elements
5. Identification of safeguarding measures for living heritage elements
6. Identification of urban planning mechanisms to safeguard living heritage elements
7. Summary of actions to safeguard living heritage elements through urban planning

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Tool 1. Mechanisms for coordination and participation

Multilevel and multisectoral coordination and social participation aim:

- To overcome institutional silos that hinder the incorporation of intangible cultural heritage in urban planning.
- To ensure the timely participation of key stakeholders from the cultural and urban planning sectors, among others.
- Leverage the knowledge, experience and resources of various key stakeholders to overcome barriers and take advantage of opportunities to safeguard living heritage.
- Promote transparency and inclusion in urban planning processes.
- It may be necessary to involve stakeholders from different levels of government, depending on local institutional arrangements.

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Tool 1. Mechanisms for coordination and participation

Multisectoral committees: Groups composed of representatives from different sectors and institutions relevant to the safeguarding of living heritage.

They allow to jointly establish a roadmap and actions to be implemented to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in urban planning and to define roles, responsibilities, goals, etc.

Participatory workshops: They are used in situations where communities or groups must work together to undertake community-based needs analysis and jointly plan solutions to a problem.

It requires contributions from a range of people with different types of experience and expertise, including communities, groups or individuals who practice and transmit living heritage.

Participatory mapping: Refers to creating maps that reflect the perceptions and knowledge that communities or groups have about their spaces, landscapes or territories. It is used for various purposes such as addressing social and spatial challenges and problems, managing the use of natural resources, managing risks in urban environments, fostering spatial equity, strengthening cultural identity and heritage preservation, among others[1].

1) Álvarez Larrain, A., McCall, M. K., & León Villalobos, J. M. (2022). Participatory mapping and social mapping of cultural, historical and archaeological knowledge: Practical resource for university professors and students

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Tool 2. Identification of intangible cultural heritage and inventorying

- Community inventories are key to identifying and raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding.
- The aim of this tool is to identify and describe the elements in an urban context, with the participation of communities, relevant non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, etc.
- It also serves to identify where elements are carried out and how they relate to urban planning structures.



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Additional materials: ample framework for organizing information on intangible cultural heritage elements: https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/U019-v1.0-HO-EN_Developing_an_inventory_framework_where_no_system_exists.docx

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Tool 2. Identification of intangible cultural heritage and inventorying

The development of an inventory usually involves four main phases:

1.Planning: Define the consultative mechanisms to be used; how communities will be informed and involved; the objectives of the exercise, etc.

2. Information gathering/documentation: Information can be collected through completed forms, notes, transcripts, recordings, photographs, manuscripts, etc.; and documentation can be carried out through interviews, among other methods.

3.Systematization/analysis and archiving of the collected information: The information can be stored in community centers, local archives, museums, or libraries, etc.

4. Drafting and publication of the inventory entries: The information can be disseminated through articles, websites, social media, etc.

Source: UNESCO, ICH Capacity-building Repository, Unit 25 - Interviewing in inventorying

Tool 2. Identification of intangible cultural heritage and inventorying

Identification of an intangible cultural heritage element		
Name of element		
Physical location		
Country, city		
Coordinates		
Scale of element		
Monument		
Building		
Block, square or street		
District or neighbourhood		
Region		
Location map or picture		
Short description		
Associated elements		
Tangible *(if any)*		
Intangible *(if any)*		
Modes of transmission		
Participants	**Name**	**Role**
Participant 1		
Participant 2		

For further training on intangible cultural heritage identification and inventorying, please refer to:

Guidance Note on Inventorying Intangible Cultural Heritage:
https://ich.unesco.org/en/guidance-note-on-inventorying-00966

Capacity-building materials on Living Heritage - Unit 6: Identification and inventorying:

https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building-materials

These materials may provide participants with practical tools to:
a) ensure that existing ICH inventories available in the city are consolidated and considered ;
b) develop inventories of ICH elements that are present on the territory of the city, identofying risk and opportunities for their safeguarding;
c) relate the information about the intangile cultural heritage present in the city to urban planning structures and processes

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Tool 3. Correspondence of intangible cultural heritage to urban planning structures

- The objective of this tool is to **identify the relationship between intangible cultural heritage elements and urban planning structures**: ecological, functional, socioeconomic and built heritage.

- It also serves to **identify the components of urban planning structures that influence**, positively or negatively, the practice of intangible cultural heritage elements.



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Tool 3. Correspondence of intangible cultural heritage to urban planning structures

Ecological		Yes/No	Justification
Biological	Flora		
	Fauna		
Physical	Soil		
	Water		
	Land		
	Weather		
Functional		**Yes/No**	**Justification**
Mobility	Railroad		
	Motorized		
	Pedestrian		
	Water		
	Air		
	Other		
Public space	Street/sidewalk		
	Park/green area		
	Square		
	Other		
Public services	Electricity		
	Gas		
	Water and sanitation		
	Waste management		
	Communications		
	Other		

Functional		Yes/No	Justification
Urban amenities	Education		
	Health		
	Culture		
	Sports and recreation		
	Other		
Socioeconomic		**Yes/No**	**Justification**
Demographic	Age		
	Gender		
	Ethnicity		
	Migration		
	Rural-urban linkages		
	Others		
Economic	Specific income group		
	Employment		
	Income generation		
	Creative economies		
Built heritage		**Yes/No**	**Justification**
Scale	Monument / building		
	Block, square or street		
	District or neighborhood		
	Region		

Tool 4. Mapping of threats and benefits

- **Threats:** Processes or changes in an urban area that may alter the practice and continuity of an intangible cultural heritage element and should need to be addressed.

- **Benefits:** Positive social, economic, environmental or cultural impact resulting from the practice and continuity of an intangible cultural heritage element.



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Tool 4. Mapping of threats and benefits

Threats	Yes/No	Justification
Changes in land use		
Destruction of spaces		
Rapid urbanization alters lifestyles		
Migration (inward or outward)		
Pressure on infrastructure		
Inadequate housing		
Unemployment or low income		
Industrialization		
Lack of public spaces		
New technology		
Land grabbing		
Climate change and natural disasters		
Food shortage or unaffordability		
Armed conflict and displacement		
Other (specify)		

Benefits	Yes/No	Justification
Social cohesion and welfare		
Informal social support structures		
Intergenerational communication		
Sense of identity		
Intra- and inter-community tolerance		
Protection of local economies		
Sustainable livelihoods		
Urban regeneration		
Environmental protection		
Urban-rural integration		
Natural risk mitigation		
Other (specify)		

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Tool 4. Mapping of threats - example

Hazards	Y/N	Justification[1]
Changes in land use	Y	A strictly economic approach to urban development may view the Hawker Centers as sites with potential for higher economic return uses, which in turn may influence land use changes to allow for more intensive real estate development.
Destruction of spaces	N	N/A
Rapid urbanization alters lifestyles	Y	Currently, the role of food vendor at Hawker Centers is not well regarded by the population as a profession or livelihood. Given the growing career aspirations of young people, this activity is often considered less attractive compared to others.
Migration (inward or outward)	N	N/A
Pressure on infrastructure	Y	The potential increase in demand for food in these centers may exceed the installed capacity of the infrastructure, which may affect the quality and operation of the centers, and people's experience.
Inadequate housing	N	N/A
Unemployment or low income	Y	Revenue margins for many vendors have declined and are generally lower than those of other food and beverage establishments. This may discourage young populations from continuing to practice this activity.
Industrialization	N	N/A
Lack of public spaces	N	N/A
Consumerism/materialism	Y	Changes in consumption trends may threaten Hawker Center culture through negative perceptions of traditional cultural practices and through a shift in demand toward more commercialized food offerings. In addition, there are more and more food and beverage outlets in Singapore, creating more competition for Hawker Centers.
New technology	N	N/A
Globalization (homogenization)	Y	Globalization may threaten vendor culture through the monopolization of stalls by large transnational business entities rather than individuals.
Land appropriation	N	N/A
Climate change and natural disasters	N	N/A
Food shortages or unaffordability	Y	The costs of raw materials and other inputs have exceeded vendors' food prices. Profit margins for many vendors have declined. Some vendors have adapted and have increased the sale of their premium dishes, which may make the vendors' offerings less affordable in the long run.
Other - Aging population	Y	More than half of today's salespeople are second- and third-generation (the average age of salespeople is 59), which can threaten the transmission of recipes, knowledge and skills to younger family members or apprentices.

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Tool 4. Mapping of benefits - example

Benefits	Y/N	Justification[1]
Social cohesion and welfare	Y	Most Hawker Centers are located in public housing centers and function as "soup kitchens". The centers remain an accessible experience for communities, and are extensions of the home where social cohesion is strengthened.
Informal social support structures	N	N/A
Intergenerational communication	Y	The culture of the vendors is manifested in the fact that they maintain culinary practices that have been passed down from generation to generation. Vendors pass on their recipes, knowledge and skills to younger family members or apprentices.
Sense of identity	Y	The vendor culture fosters a common national identity based on shared experiences, values and norms and represents Singapore's multicultural heritage.
Intra- and inter-community tolerance	Y	Hawker Centers function as community spaces that are frequented by diverse communities residing in Singapore throughout the day. Multicultural exchanges in these spaces are commonplace, fostering greater tolerance.
Protection of local economies	Y	The vendor culture provides stable livelihoods for the vendors and affordable meals for the population.
Sustainable livelihoods	Y	This activity is a factor of social and economic leveling, accessible to people of different ethnicities, social origins, religions and cultures. It provides stable livelihoods for vendors. There are approximately 6,000 street vendors of different ages, genders and ethnicities working in this practice.
Urban regeneration	N	N/A
Environmental protection	N	N/A

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Tool 5. Identification of safeguarding measures

- Analytical framework for identifying ways in which urban planning can contribute to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Actions must address the identified threats and relate to a component of urban structures.

Type of action	Description	
Provide	Provide an urban component necessary to help address a threat or maximize a benefit of an intangible cultural heritage element	New public spaces New cultural facilities New policy instrument or financial support program
Preserve	Preserving an urban component that exists and functions well in terms of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage but may be threatened if no action is taken	Preserving a river where an element is practiced Preserving rural-urban links Preserving built heritage
Improve	Improve an urban component that exists but could be strengthened to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.	Improving existing public spaces to facilitate festive events Improving an existing public market to safeguard intangible cultural heritage
Adjust	Adjust certain features of an urban component that exists but does not function well in terms of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage or to mitigate a threat to intangible cultural heritage.	Renewing the permitted land uses in a given zone Pedestrionizing a street that is currently used by motorized traffic Reusing an existing building

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Tool 5. Identification of safeguarding measures

Safeguarding measures for intangible cultural heritage elements						
Threat	**Safeguarding measures**					**Expected benefit**
	#	Urban planning structure	Scale	Type	Description	
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
	6					
	7					
	8					
	9					

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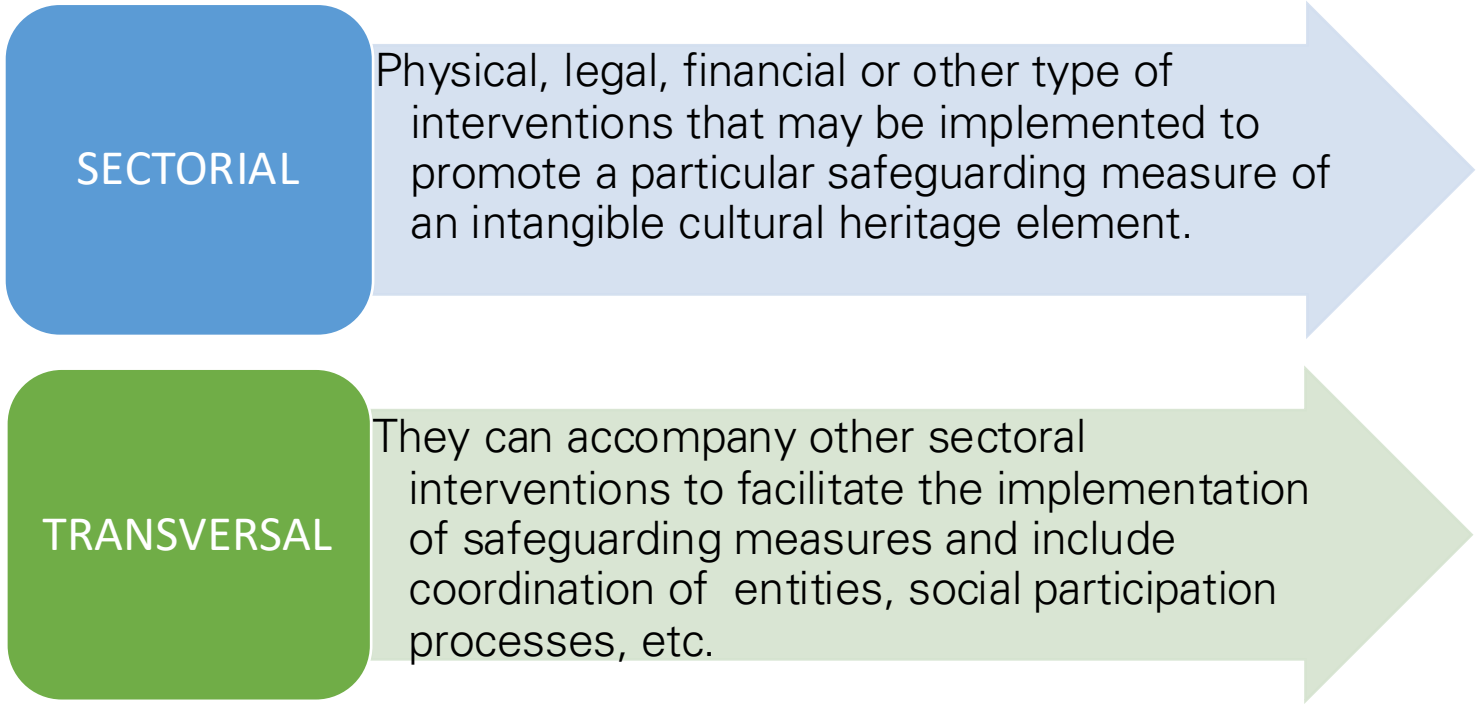
Tool 5. Identification of safeguarding measures - example

Strategic actions to safeguard an ICH element						
Threat [1]	**Strategic actions [4]**					**Expected profit [5]**
	#	Urban structure [2]	Scale [3]	Type	Description	
Changes in land use	1	Functional	Regional	Preserve	Considering that some Hawker Centers **may have potential for higher return on investment uses from a real estate and economic perspective, land use planning can help preserve existing centers in the medium and long term to help protect this cultural practice.**	· Social cohesion and welfare · Sustainable livelihoods · Intergenerational communication · Sense of identity · Intra- and inter-community tolerance · Protection of local economies
	2	Functional	Regional	Supply	Given the growing demand for food in some centers, **modifications to the land use plan may be considered to provide additional land for the construction of new centers** in the medium and long term.	· Social cohesion and welfare · Sustainable livelihoods · Intergenerational communication · Sense of identity · Intra- and inter-community tolerance · Protection of local economies
Unemployment or low income	3	Socioeconomic	Regional	Supply	As the vendors' income margins shrink due to the rising costs of raw materials and other costs of raw materials and other inputs, **a policy to keep stall rents affordable could be devised and implemented** to help improve the financial viability of vendors.	· Sustainable livelihoods · Protection of local economies
	4	Socioeconomic	Regional	Improve	**Improve food waste recycling initiatives at food waste centers and incorporate waste recycling systems** both for sustainability purposes and as an	· Sustainable livelihoods

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Tool 6. Identification of urban planning mechanisms to safeguard ICH elements

- Identification of the type of mechanisms that could help to carry out the previously identified measures.
- The mechanisms and measures contained in the methodological tools are not exhaustive and it is possible to identify others.



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Tool 6. Identification of urban planning mechanisms to safeguard ICH elements - sectorial

Type	Mechanism	Examples
Physical	Interventions related to the ecological structure.	Reforestation of endemic flora that contributes to the identity of a community; cleaning a river where an element is located; soil improvement to enhance traditional agriculture.
	Interventions related to the functional structure.	Construction of new public spaces, introduction of street lighting or pedestrianization of a street to facilitate cultural practices in an area.
Legal	Zoning	Establish geographic areas with significant value that require specific safeguarding measures and establish compatible primary and secondary uses.
	Urban code	Establish land use and construction policies and regulations for the preservation of built heritage to ensure the continuity of a cultural practice linked to a place.
	Other relevant regulations	It may include codes and regulations related to, for example, transportation, water, public space, housing, etc.
Financial	Public financing	Means of financing through public sector sources, including, for example, direct public funding or grants aimed at improving the viability of an intangible cultural heritage element.
	Financial incentives	Tax deductions to encourage private investment in the reconstruction or maintenance of heritage buildings; or incentives to safeguard specific practices such as the use of traditional local building materials, etc.
	Private financing	Direct investment, loans, guarantees or other, for interventions that can contribute to safeguarding living heritage (e.g. opening of a private museum or a traditional business).

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Tool 6. Identification of urban planning mechanisms to safeguard ICH elements - transversal

Type	Mechanism	Description
Transversal	Social participation processes	Involve relevant stakeholders in the planning, design and implementation of specific safeguarding interventions (e.g., the design and construction of a new public space or the redesign of a street to facilitate a cultural practice; or the preparation of a district plan).
	Multilevel and multisectoral coordination entities	Coordination mechanisms may include intersectoral committees, working groups or others.
	Technical assistance programs	Programs to provide specialized technical support to facilitate the preparation or implementation of an intangible cultural heritage safeguarding measure (e.g., assistance to help safeguard traditional crafts).

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Tool 6. Identification of urban planning mechanisms to safeguard ICH elements - template

Planning mechanisms					
Safeguarding measure		Sectoral mechanism	Description	Transversal mechanism	Description
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
n..					

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Tool 7. Summary of actions to safeguard ICH elements through urban planning

- Summary of actions to be taken to help safeguard intangible cultural heritage elements through urban planning
- It should be brief and concise and outline the tools and steps that will be taken to implement strategic actions.
- Community consent should be obtained on the safeguarding measures, as communities should have been involved in developing them.
- Summary of roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and a chronological indication of the route to be followed, for example:
  - Develop a new master or district plan to incorporate the identified strategic actions
  - Update a comprehensive plan for incorporating ICH into a city's urban development framework.



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