

Exhibition Development Programme

**Workshop on
Museums and Intangible Natural Heritage
with focus on Desert**

**19-21 March 2013
Jaisalmer**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India)
Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001
www.nmnh.nic.in

**In collaboration with
RUPAYAN SANSTHAN, JODHPUR &
DESERT CULTURE CENTRE MUSEUM, JAISALMER**

BACKGROUND

Intangible Heritage (IH) is a term increasingly used while discussing about Heritage. The term has been in circulation only during the last decade or so. Before the arrival of the term IH, Heritage in general has been restricted to the tangible aspects only. However, it has been felt in UNESCO for many years that restricting Heritage to the tangible/ materialistic aspects alone excludes a large percentage of heritage efforts, especially from the Asian countries including India. The World Heritage tag, which was earlier restricted to sites of materialistic heritage such as forts, monuments, national parks etc were expanded to include IH leading to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

UNESCO role in IH: As mentioned above, UNESCO has been involved in the normative processes related to Intangible Heritage. The Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (2001, 2003, and 2005) and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) are examples. On 17 October 2003 following the Second Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage identifies five key domains in which the ICH is manifested: Oral traditions and Expressions, Performing arts, Social practices, Rituals and Festive events, Knowledge and Practices concerning Nature and the Universe, and Traditional Craftsmanship.

Museums and IH: The ICOM (International Council of Museums), which is the international agency involved in the professional development of museums and Museology, has been increasingly recognizing the importance of Intangible Heritage (IH) and has recently modified its definition of Museums by including both tangible and intangible aspects of collections as the foundations of all Museums. The early efforts in this regard include Shanghai Charter (2001), Seoul Declaration (2004) and Calicut Charter (2007). The NMNH has highlighted the and INH (Intangible Natural Heritage) aspect of IH. During the ICOM-ASPAC Meeting in Shanghai, China, the NMNH has suggested the Kani model on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) as the Indian Model on Intangible Heritage. During the ICOM General Conference held in Seoul in 2004, a “Four years Programme on the Roles of Museums and Communities in the Proclamation and Protection of the Intangible (“Living”) Cultural Heritage (2005-2008)” was discussed. It involved a capacity building workshop for South Asia: “Documentation of Traditional Knowledge, Museums and INH (Intangible Natural Heritage)” which was held in Hyderabad, India in 2007.

INDIAN SCENE

In India the responsibility of safeguarding of IH is with the Ministry of Culture which has assigned this work initially to Indira Gandhi National centre for Arts (IGNCA) and later to the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA). The following is a list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage from India:

2008	Kutiyattam: Sanskrit Theatre
	Ramlila: the traditional performance of Ramayana
	Tradition of Vedic chanting
2009	Ramman: religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
	Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz
2010	Chhau dance
	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
2012	Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh

NMNH AND INH

The NMNH has been involved in the ICOM movement on IH for which it has organised a large number of Programmes especially on Intangible Natural Heritage (INH):

2002: Shanghai: NMNH has suggested the Kani model on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) as the Indian Model on INH at the ICOM-ASPAC Meeting,

2007: Calicut: National Conference: A National Conference on “Museums and Intangible Natural Heritage” was organized during 18-20 April 2007 in collaboration with Eco-tourism Directorate of Kerala. A “Calicut Charter on Intangible Heritage and Museums” was released which highlighted the importance of *Hortus Malabaricus* as the earliest systematic scientific example of documentation of Intangible Natural Heritage in Asia,

2008: Kochi: National Workshop: A workshop was organised in Kochi (where the original efforts on the preparation of *Hortus Malabaricus* was done by Van Rheede, the Dutch Governor of Malabar with headquarter in Cochin) in collaboration with Cochin Corporation in March 2008. Many archival materials and remnants of Heritage Garden related to *Hortus Malabaricus* are situated in Kochi,

2009: Mysore: Museum Gallery: An Exhibition curated by Dr Annamma Spudich (Stanford University, USA) (“Such Treasure and Rich Merchandize”) which was on show at the TIFR/ NCBS Bangalore for a few months was re-structured as a new Museum Gallery on “Such Treasure and Rich Merchandize: Early Plant Heritage of India” and opened to public at the RMNH Mysore in January 2009 by Mr. Namo Narayan Meena, the then Union Minister of State of Ministry of Environment & Forests,

2011: Kalady: “Festival of Museums and INH” during 22-27 June at various venues in Kerala in collaboration with Kerala State Forest Department,

2011: Jodhpur: National Seminar on INH and Traditional Knowledge about Biodiversity and Exhibition on Biodiversity of Western India during Sept 28 to October 2 in collaboration with ZSI Desert Regional Centre,

2012: New Delhi: National Conference and Exhibition on INH in March,

2012: Hyderabad: International Conference session on INH on the sidelines of the UN CoP 11,

2013: Bhubaneswar: National Conference on Folklore and INH in January 2013 in RMNH Bhubaneswar in collaboration with Folkland (Kasargod) and Centre for Environment & Development (Thiruvananthapuram)

It has been felt that the NMNH may support the cause of IH in India by continuing with its work on INH. There is also a need for a national inventorisation of INH and that it must take in to consideration the multitudes of methodologies available in India. Towards this direction, a few brainstorming workshops are planned in different Regions of India as part of Exhibition Development Programme (EDP) of the NMNH.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to organise an Exhibition Development Programme (EDP) workshop on “Museums and Intangible Natural Heritage with focus on Desert” during 19-21 March 2013 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

1. **Objectives:** The objectives of the Workshop are to
 - a. Bring together all stakeholders interested in the INH of Desert,
 - b. Suggest a viable Methodology for the Inventorisation of Desert INH,
 - c. Act as capacity building exercise to Museologists,
 - d. Suggest themes for the development of an Exhibition on INH ,
2. **Anticipated Outcomes:** It is envisaged that the Workshop will result in:
 - a. Shared knowledge and effective networking for the management of INH by Museums,
 - b. Capacity building for the participants,
 - c. Recommendations for safeguarding of the INH of Kalbelia,
 - d. Preparation of a draft Exhibition on INH
3. **Deliverables:** The workshop is expected to result in the following deliverables:
 - a. Suggested themes for an Exhibition on Desert INH
 - b. Suggestions of a suitable Methodology for INH Inventorisation of Kalbelia
4. **Themes:** The following themes are proposed:
 - a. INH of Desert Plants,
 - b. INH of Desert Animals,
 - c. General themes on INH
 - d. INH aspects of Kalbelia
5. **Collaboration:** Rupayan Sansthan (Jodhpur) and Desert Culture Centre Museum (Jaisalmer)
6. **Venue:** Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
7. **Participation:** Participants are expected from various fields such as Museology, Botany, Zoology, Biodiversity, Folklore, Heritage etc.
8. **Invitation for Registration:** Participation is by invitation only. The invited Experts are requested to submit extended Abstracts (limited to 1000 words) based on case studies.
9. **Dates to remember:** Submission of Abstracts along with Registration form: 28th February 2013
10. **Communication (Email only):** Dr B. Venugopal, Director, National Museum of Natural History, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001. Email: dirmnh@gmail.com

STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop is structured toward gaining an understanding of the applications of various methodologies of heritage mapping as a viable tool for the inventorisation of INH. The academic sessions will generally be through panel discussions.

Day 1: The workshop will be introduced by the Director NMNH followed by observations from other Experts. The morning and afternoon sessions are designed to provide participants with an exposure to the various aspects of INH of Deserts.

Day 2: The morning session will have focus session on Kalbelia, with the actual performers from various regions of the State leading the discussion with inputs from other Experts. The exercise will be facilitated by Shri Kuldip Kothari, Rupayan Sansthan. In the afternoon, there will be a field visit to Desert National Park (DNP) where the participants will interact with the Eco-Development Committee as well as villagers. The knowledge of the local community is important for the management of the DNP. **There is only limited number of seats for this field visit session.**

Day 3: The morning session will involve discussion on how to develop an Exhibition on INH based on the deliberations of the workshop. In the final session, the participants will summarize the core materials presented, the exercises undertaken and proceed with an evaluation of the workshop and learning outcomes.

LOCAL COORDINATION

For local coordination, the following Experts may also be contacted:

- a. Shri Kuldip Kothari, Rupayan Sansthan, Paota B-2 Road, Jodhpur-342006. (Mobile 9414136361)
- b. Shri N. K. Sharma, Desert Culture Centre Museum, Gadisar Circle, Jaisalmer-345001.

REGISTRATION FORM

1	Name (in capital letters)	
2	Designation	
3	Name of Office/ Institution/ Agency	
4	Address for communication	
5	Contact numbers	Tel. (O)
		Tel. (R)
		Fax
		Mobile
		Email
6	CV (short)/ Profile of Organisation	(May attach separately)
7	Do you wish to submit a paper	Yes/ No
	If Yes, title of the Abstract/ Paper	
	(The extended Abstract of 1000 words is enclosed)	Yes/ No
	(The full Paper will be submitted by the last date)	Yes/ No
	Signature of the Applicant with date	

This Registration Form may be filled up and returned to reach the Coordinator latest by 28th February 2013: Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, National Museum of Natural History, Tansen Marg, New Delhi-110001. Email: dirnmnh@gmail.com ; vbha56@yahoo.com

NOTE:

There will be a limited number of assistance for travel and / shared accommodation. Officials representing institutions/ organisations are requested to get sponsorship for travel and accommodation from their own institutions/ organisations. Bonafide students (with documentary evidence as well as approval from the Head of the institution) will be eligible for assistance with travel and shared accommodation. They shall have to submit a detailed Report about the Workshop.