

Report of the session of the Working Group on Research of the ICH NGO Forum, in Bogota, Wednesday 11 December 2019

The Working Group on Research was established in Windhoek, Namibia, December 2015 (see: www.ichngoforum.org/wg/ich-ngos-research/) to function as a platform for the NGOs to exchange information about specific topics on which we want to deepen our understanding. In Mauritius we also discussed future plans of the Working Group and the way into which the Working Group should develop.

During the Working Group session, the discussion focused on short- and long term objectives. The focus of the group was defined as sharing reflections on working in the field, working on participatory research to the benefit of the communities, developing toolkits, etc.

For the short term tourism was discussed and selected as an important topic for the next ICH NGO Forum Symposium in Jamaica. Several attendees of this WG meeting (among them Laurier Turgeon and Robert Baron – this working committee is of course open for others also) volunteered to participate in the preparation of this symposium, starting with preparing a call for presentations open to all NGOs wanting to do a presentation. How could ICH safeguarding benefit from tourism but also: what are the challenges in connection with what UNESCO calls ‘the threat of over commercialization’. In close collaboration with the Steering Group of the ICH-NGO Forum and preferably also in cooperation with other ICH-NGO Forum working groups Albert will take the initiative preparing and sharing a call for presentations for the symposium on tourism.

Another group (including Valentina Zingari and Amélia Frazão Moreira), will prepare a mission statement for the Working Group as a whole, that will explore long term policies of the Working Group, exploring ways of communication within the group (creating a mailgroup?), contemplating possible projects and selecting interesting topics to address. And also exploring possible ways of collaborating with the internet magazine working in the same field: Memoriamedia Review.

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