



ICH NGO Forum
Research Working Group
Mission Statement

Background of the Working Group Research

The Working Group Research (WG-Research) of the ICH-NGO Forum was established in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2015. Since then, Working Group meetings and working sessions take place during the sessions of the General Assembly and at the Intergovernmental Committee Meetings of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as online throughout the year.

Nature of the Working Group Research

The Working Group Research is a community of NGOs involved in the safeguarding of ICH, having collaborative research applied to ICH safeguarding as the major interest. It has been devised as a platform to share and discuss the research done by the NGOs that are part of the group.

Communication of the Working Group Research

The website of the Forum is currently the main communication tool for the Working Group.

Mission of the Working Group Research

The mission of the Working Group Research is:

1. Foster knowledge exchange, information sharing and promote wide accessibility of research articles / data bases among the members of the ICH NGO Forum.
2. Promote collaborative research on topics relevant to bearers, practitioners, institutions and other stakeholders, offering support in safeguarding processes.
3. Strengthen the cooperation between different stakeholders taking part in safeguarding processes.

Thus, the WG-Research aims to promote and facilitate dialogue between research carried out by NGOs, Universities, and communities on themes such as safeguarding, sustainability, diversity, ethics, etc. while strengthening the place and involvement of communities in this research to co-construct new knowledge through participatory, interactive, and innovative approaches, involving both local and academic knowledge.

The research group aims to serve as a knowledge-sharing and capacity-building platform for the accredited NGOs, fostering research collaborations and providing reflections on

the various research topics and debates that animate the ICH sphere. Throughout the years, the WG-Research thus has been inspiring the work and reflections of the Intergovernmental Committee and the global ICH safeguarding networks through its activities, symposiums, web dossiers and tools.

Guiding Principles of the Working Group Research

The Working Group Research is guided by the following values, that become the basis of our objectives and activities:

1. Communities, groups and individuals are the essence of every safeguarding process.
2. Ethical principles should be applied to research on ICH.
3. Diversity of research methodologies is a key component for every safeguarding process.
4. Cooperation and exchange of knowledge, good practices and opportunities between the many actors of the safeguarding processes is an important condition for the success of every safeguarding process.
5. Reflections emerging from the different approaches related to research and/for/in/on ICH, are crucial for a good implementation and evolution of the 2003 Convention and for the safeguarding of ICH in general.

Objectives of the Working Group Research

Short term objectives

1. Develop and consolidate internal communication within the group and with other groups of the ICH NGO Forum.
2. Generate spaces to discuss relevant topics on research and/for/in/on the safeguarding of ICH during the meetings of the Committee and the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention.
3. Cooperate and realize exchanges with external groups and platforms on ICH and related research.

Long term objectives

1. Serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and capacity building for the accredited NGOs in this Convention.
2. Assist the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention by assessing and reflecting on the implementation of the Convention, in issues concerning research.
3. Share reflections on participatory research, fieldwork methods, capacity building and other methodologies for the safeguarding of ICH.
4. Strengthen community's involvement in research.
5. Increase reflexivity to current debates on ICH research.
6. Strengthen the 2003 Convention's Research Agenda in connection with relevant debated topics.
7. Map ideas on field research, reporting, data mining, state reports, etc.
8. Co-build new knowledge through participatory, interactive and innovative approaches, involving both local and academic knowledge.

Topics addressed by the Working Group Research

An exhaustive list of topics to be addressed results from the discussions that have taken place until now. Topics are chosen at the annual meeting to be the subject of the work of the following year.

This list is permanently under construction, following the trends and needs of the ICH field and open to address particular themes and issues:

- Ethics and research in the process of safeguarding ICH
- Collaborative and participative research methodologies in safeguarding ICH
- ICH and tourism
- ICH in emergencies
- Implications of the inscription of an element on the ICH Lists
- Implications of safeguarding the ICH concerning nature, related to sustainability, climate change adaptation and risk of zoonotic diseases
- Development of new adaptive strategies in situations of political, social, health and natural crisis
- Threats of over commercialization
- ICH in urban contexts
- Conflicts and controversies in the safeguarding process
- ICH and sustainability challenges
- Relation between ICH and tangible heritage
- ICH and youth cultures
- ICH, cultural rights and Intellectual property rights
- ...

Organization of the Working Group Research

The Research working group is coordinated on a biannual basis by a team of minimal three members.

Members wishing to be part of the coordination team will be invited to express their interest/intention by email ([ichngoforum.research\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ichngoforum.research@gmail.com)) two weeks before the annual meeting.

The intention is to involve all members even if not physically present at the meeting sessions happening in accordance with the Intergovernmental Committee Meeting. If less than three members express the intention to coordinate the working group, it will be coordinated by the ones expressing their interest, and the missing member(s) may be designated on the annual meeting.