



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Preparatory Assistance Nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List

ICH-05 – Form

Le 12 JAN. 2012

N° 0035

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REQUEST FOR PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE FOR ELABORATING A NOMINATION FOR INSCRIPTION ON THE URGENT SAFEGUARDING LIST

DEADLINE 31 MARCH 2011

*Instructions for completing the request form is available at:
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/forms>*

1. State(s) Party(ies)

For multi-national requests, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.

Syrian Arab Republic

2. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning the request. If an e-mail address cannot be provided, the information should include a fax number.

For multi-national requests provide complete contact information for the person designated by the submitting States Parties as the main contact person for all correspondence with the Secretariat of the Convention relating to the request as well as one person in each State Party concerned.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Aboufakher

Given name: Imad

Institution/position: Ministry of Culture- Director of Popular Heritage

Address: George Haddad Street, Rawda, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Telephone number: +963-11-4450370, +963 955 158979

Fax number: +963 11 4450370

E-mail address: im.aboufakher@gmail.com

Other relevant
information:

3. Name of element to be nominated for inscription

This is the official name of the element in English or French that will appear in documents concerning the requested assistance.

Not to exceed 200 characters

Silk Reeling on the Arab Wheel in Syria

4. Amount of assistance requested

Preparatory assistance will normally be in the range of US\$5,000 to US\$10,000; requests submitted jointly by at least two States Parties and involving greater costs may reach the top of this range.

Amount requested from the Fund: US\$15,505

State Party contribution: US\$4,750

5. Identification of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned

Identify clearly one or several communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned by the element to be nominated.

The information provided should be mutually coherent with the information in other sections below.

Not to exceed 200 words

Silk reeling, or extraction of silk thread from cocoons, is practiced by young or adult men, assisted by other men or women from their families. Obtained silk skeins get processed (re-reeled and thrown) mostly by women to produce the final bobbins of natural silk yarn.

Manual reeling on the Arab Wheel, which is a sitting type reeling machine, is practiced today by three families (Sa'oud, Mohammad and Al-Hasan) and one non-family business owned by Ismail Al Hajj.

This craft is closely associated with the traditional practice of raising silkworms and cultivating cocoons, which provides it with its raw materials and which is mostly practiced by women, but also across gender and age groups.

The produced thread either gets manually woven or crocheted by the same families who produced it, or sold to other ones for the preparation of final products.

These crafts are practiced across ethnic and religious groups, and most of the products done today are meant for women. Traditional consumption by rural women, especially older ones, still exists, but there is also consumption by a small new clientele in big cities, including young Syrian women and tourists.

6. Geographic location and range of the element to be nominated

Provide information on the range of distribution of the element, indicating if possible the locations in which it is centred. If related elements are practised in neighbouring areas, please so indicate.

Not to exceed 100 words

Silk Reeling on the Arab Wheel is practiced in the village of Deir Mama (Hama) and Beit Al-Hajj

(Tartous); both located in the Western Mountains, where silkworm raising and cocoon cultivation take place. The last statistic in 2009 indicates that 16 villages were involved in cocoon production then, and that production was concentrated around Deir Mama and Dreikish (Tartous).

Families who reel silk today place the Arab Wheels on the side of the street in the village or in their back yards, and the non-family business in a farm. Four Arab Wheels, all in function, exist today.

7. Domain(s) represented by the element to be nominated

Tick one or more boxes to identify the domain(s) of intangible cultural heritage manifested by the element, which might include one or more of the domains identified in Article 2.2 of the Convention. If you tick 'others', specify the domain(s) in brackets.

- oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship
- others ()

8. Implementing agency (contracting party, if assistance is provided)

8.a. Name and contact information

Provide the name, address and other contact information of the implementing agency that would be contracted by UNESCO to prepare the nomination for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List.

Name of the agency: Ministry of Culture- Directorate of Popular Heritage

Name and title of the contact person: Mr. Imad Aboufakher, Director of Popular Heritage

Address: George Haddad Street, Rawda, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

Telephone number: +963 11 4450370, +963 11 955 158979

Fax number: +963 11 4450370

E-mail address: im.aboufakher@gmail.com

Other relevant information:

8.b. Default on any previous contract with UNESCO

Is the implementing agency in default of any previous contract with UNESCO, because it has not settled amounts due or has otherwise failed to carry out its obligations there under? If so, provide below detailed information about the contract (contract number, contract period, UNESCO Division or Office concerned, etc.).

- No
 Yes (if so, please provide details below:)

8.c. On-going contract with UNESCO

Is the implementing agency now under contract with UNESCO for any purpose? If so, provide below detailed information about the contract(s) (contract number, contract period, UNESCO Division or Office concerned, etc.).

- No
 Yes (if so, please provide details below:)

9. Process of elaborating the nomination

Describe the process that will be used to elaborate the nomination. Indicate whether the communities, groups, or if applicable, individuals concerned by this nomination have already given their prior consent to the submission of the nomination for inscription on the Urgent Safeguarding List. Explain the mechanisms planned for fully involving them in the preparation of the nomination.

Describe the body with primary responsibility for preparing the nomination (implementing agency identified under item 8) as well as the human resources available to this body. Identify additional expertise that may be needed or other bodies that may assist.

Not to exceed 250 words

Interviews will be made with all practitioners of the silk reeling craft and representatives of practitioners of traditions closely related to it (cocoon cultivation and silk weaving), in order to validate its status quo and analyze problems and best safeguarding measures from their perspective. Employees of the Office of Silk at the Ministry of Agriculture, plus the Ministries of Culture and Tourism will also be interviewed to register current mal-practices, measures and plans for safeguarding from the government's side.

Relevant laws in place will be scanned and a roundtable discussion with key governmental decision-makers from relevant Ministries will be organized to discuss possible interventions at national level.

Furthermore, current marketing channels will be studied and the perception of the final product will be professionally assessed by a marketing company, in addition to finding prospects for it from interested market segments.

Researcher Maya Alkateb, who worked with communities concerned with the element for 8 months in 2009 certified their interest in registering Silk Reeling on the Arab Wheel on the USL and recommended it, stating that saving this element would save associated traditional practices, given its central position in the production chain of natural silk products.

The Department of Popular Heritage will be responsible for the preparation of the nomination file,

collaborating with researcher Maya Alkateb and photographer Hany Hawasly who worked on the topic before, while director Ghassan Zakaria will create the film with their help and that of concerned communities. Second Step Company will conduct the market study.

10. Preparatory measures to be supported financially by this request

Within the nomination elaboration process described in section 9 above, what are the specific activities necessary for the preparation of the nomination that cannot be carried out using the resources of the submitting State Party? Please indicate the nature and sequence of such activities.

Preparatory assistance may be used to pay, for instance, for a film or photos necessary for the submission of a nomination, the organization of consultations with communities, expert services for the preparation of a nomination, translation services, etc. Please note that the Secretariat may not provide technical assistance regarding a specific nomination; therefore funds should not be requested for travel or other expenses of UNESCO personnel.

Provide information concerning only the specific measures that are to be funded by this preparatory assistance request.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Ministry of Culture can finance the research, roundtable discussion with key governmental decision makers and preparation of the nomination file.

Financial assistance is needed to cover the expenses of the researchers' trips out of Damascus to conduct interviews, and those of the filming crew and photographer, noting that several should be made to different locations in the Governorates of Hama and Tartous and at different times to capture silkworms, cocoons, the thread being made with the traditional reeling craft and the creation of final products with it.

Cocoon and silk yarn production is seasonal, happening around the end of May and beginning of June every year, and trips in which the photography and the shooting for the film will take place have to take place then.

Other expenses needing financial assistance are creating the film, including fees of the director and necessary staff, equipment, editing, subtitling and others, in addition to professionally photographing the element and paying remuneration to families featured in the film.

The professional marketing study will also need support. It includes holding two focus groups, one with Syrians and another with foreigners, to examine the market's perception of the product in its current shape and investigate best ways to market it.

11. Timetable of the project

Provide a month-by-month timetable for the proposed activities keeping in mind that the deadline for submission of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List is 31 March 2012 for possible inscription in 2013. Please also note that the activities can only begin approximately three months after the approval of the request, at the earliest. A sample timetable is available in Annex 1 of the instructions.

Please note that taking photos and shooting for the film could only happen at the end of May and beginning of June every year, when the seasons of silkworm raising and traditional silk reeling take place (because of the relation to the flourishing of mulberry trees). Therefore, we plan to have our nomination to the USL complete by July 2012 for submission by 31 March 2013, unless another earlier deadline is available by then.

Timetable:

January, February 2012: Research, including interviews and travel will be done

March, April 2012: The market study will be conducted and the roundtable discussion with key governmental decision makers will be organized

May, June 2012: Photography and shooting for the film will be completed

July 2012: Photos are ready, the film is finalized (including subtitles), and the nomination file is completed and ready for submission

12. Budget

The budget should reflect only the activities and expenses for which preparatory assistance is requested, including the State contribution, if any. Clearly distinguish the amount requested from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund from the amount to be contributed by the State Party.

Provide a detailed budget breakdown in US dollars of the amount requested, by type of cost (e.g. personnel, travel, fees, etc.) with enough specificity and detail so as to provide sufficient justification and to allow actual expenses to be matched directly against the projections. Sample budgets are available in Annex 2 of the instructions.

The budget breakdown in this section should be in conformity with the detailed narrative description provided under section 10 (Preparatory measures to be supported financially by this request).

Amount requested from ICH Fund	15,505
Details:	
Travel of researcher (12days @110 USD/day including lodging and transport)	1,320
Translation of prepared nomination file (8 pages @ 15 USD/page)	120
Film's storyboard (1 person @100% *1 month @ 665 USD/month)	665
Film director (1 person @100% *10 days @ 150 USD/day)	1,500
Film director's assistant (1 person @100% *6 days @ 65 USD/day)	390
Photographer (1 person @100% *6 days @ 110 USD/day)	660
Remuneration for filmed families (4 families @ 100 USD/family)	400
Rental of equipment (camera, sound, lighting *6 days @ 225 USD/day)	1,350
Rental of van during photography and shooting for film (6 days @ 135/day)	810
Van driver (6 days @100% @ 45 USD/day)	270
Cameraman for film (1 person @100% *6 days @ 110 USD/day)	660
Light and sound technician for film (1 person @100% *6 days @ 45 USD/day)	270
Travel of filming crew (6 days *6 persons @110 USD/day/person)	3,960
Film Editing (10 min. film of about 10 hr. or footage)	600
Music rights for the film (two tracks)	350
Subtitling (10 min.)	180
Marketing study (2 focus groups @ 1000 USD/group)	2,000
Amount contributed by the Syrian State (Ministry of Culture)	4,750

Details:

Researcher (1 person @30% *6 months @1000 USD/month)	1,800
Coordination of preparing nomination (1 person %30 *6 months @ 1000 USD/month)	1,800
Accountant (1 person @10% *6 months @1000 USD/month)	600
Telecommunications and office supplies (6 months @75 USD/month)	450
Refreshments and stationary for roundtable discussion (1 event @ 100 USD/event)	100

13. Previous financial assistance from UNESCO for similar or related activities

Has the State Party ever received any financial assistance from UNESCO or any of its offices or programmes to implement an activity similar to or related to the project that you are currently proposing? If so, provide below detailed information on the project(s) (title, period, contract number, funding source, etc.).

No

Yes (if so, please provide details below:)

MEDLIHER project Mediterranean Living Heritage. Period 12 months till March 2010.
Contract No. 3250037134

Funding source: European Commission, UNESCO

14. Signature on behalf of the State Party

The request should conclude with the original signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State Party, together with his or her name, title and the date of submission.

In the case of multi-national requests, the document should contain the name, title and signature of an official of each State Party submitting the request.

Name: Dr. Riad Ismat

Title: Minister of Culture

Date: 23 August 2011

Signature: 