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للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Culture Sector**  
**Division for Cultural Expressions and Heritage**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

Mr Robinson M. Kanyenze  
Director of Culture, a.i.  
Department of Culture  
Ministry of State for National Heritage  
and Culture  
P.O. Box 67374  
00200 Nairobi  
Kenya

5 July 2013

Ref.: CLT/CEH/ITH/13/0063200022-0064900022

References to be used on all correspondence: 00632 & 00649

Dear Mr Kanyenze,

I write to you with reference to your second resubmission of two preparatory assistance requests for support for the elaboration of nominations for possible inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, under the titles 'Rituals and practices associated with Kit Mikayi shrine of the Luo community in Kenya' (Request 00632) and 'Soapstone carving among the Abagusii of Kenya' (Request 00649). Please accept our apologies for not coming back to you earlier with our comments.

Concerning **request 00632**, the Secretariat notes that the technical issues raised previously, concerning the details of the budget and of the State contribution, have been adequately revised in the current submission. We have taken the liberty to update the contact person following the unfortunate death of your predecessor Ms Gladys Gatheru and section 11 on timetable of the project (to use month 1, month 2 and so on rather than the calendar month since we do not know when the project can start in the event that assistance can be granted). Kindly let us know, by sending an e-mail message to [ICH-assistance@unesco.org](mailto:ICH-assistance@unesco.org), if you still wish to submit this preparatory assistance request and if the attached document, which also uses the correct form for the next nomination cycle, is acceptable to you so that this version of the request can be transmitted to the Bureau for its examination.

Turning now to **request 00649**, there are still a number of issues to be resolved before the request can be presented to the Bureau.

In general, there seems to be confusion as regards what will be nominated, since the request refers to soapstone mining and carving (section 9) and rock art (sections 5 and 7) at the same time. I would like to remind you that the protection of archaeological remains falls outside the scope of the 2003 Convention unless they are associated with specific practices or traditions of intangible cultural heritage. When revising the request I encourage you to resolve this confusion and justify the involvement of the Trust for Rock Art in Africa if this partner will play a role in the preparation of the nomination.

.../...

Concerning the contact person for correspondence, please kindly update section 2 following, once again, the sad loss of Ms Gladys Gatheru.

The description for the location of the project in section 6 is somewhat confusing since it does not correspond totally to the description given in section 5 (notably as regards the communities of Ruora Bogetenga and Moma). Please resolve the discrepancy when revising the request and provide a clearer description, bearing in mind that most readers are not familiar with the geography of Kenya. It would also be helpful if you could explain here that the 'Abagusii', as indicated in the title, is another name for the 'Kisii'.

As regards section 11 on the timetable of the project, four months seems to be too short for preparing a nomination file; I encourage you to extend at least by an additional two months to allow proper consultation with the community on the draft nomination and the closure of the project. When revising the request please also use month 1, month 2, etc. rather than the calendar month, since we do not know when the project can start in the event that assistance can be granted.

Concerning section 12, there is a calculation error under 'capacity building workshop with communities concerned'. DSA (US\$99 × 2 nights × 3 persons) is US\$594 and not US\$954.

Finally, when revising this request please make sure to use the most recent version of Form ICH-05 (revised on 16 December 2011).

I encourage you to send us as soon as possible the revised version of your request 00649, in electronic form, incorporating the additional information requested above, so that the Secretariat can determine whether your request is complete. We will substitute it in place of your original request. Please send the document, in standard .rtf or .doc format, to the e-mail address: [ICH-assistance@unesco.org](mailto:ICH-assistance@unesco.org).

Please note that in the event the Bureau approves one or both of these requests and makes funds available, the resulting nomination(s) will need to be submitted in March 2014 (for possible examination in 2015) or in March 2015 (for possible examination in 2016). In that respect, I remind you that Kenya currently has four files from previous cycles that remain in the 'backlog'. Information on these pending files is displayed on the following page: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00554>. Based upon current and recent experience, it is unlikely that the Committee will be able to examine more than one file per submitting State in each cycle. At the time of submission in March 2014 and/or March 2015, Kenya will need to indicate its order of priority among all pending files. You may wish to take this into account in your planning.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Cécile Duvelle  
Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of  
the Intangible Cultural Heritage  
Chief, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

cc: Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO  
Kenya National Commission for UNESCO