

CONCEPT NOTE

Supporting the Periodic Reporting process in Eastern Africa for the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999)



Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):	Africa Region --Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania
Duration (in months):	9 months (November 2020-July 2021)
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Partner(s) institutions:	Ministries for Culture UNESCO National Commissions
Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:	19,937 USD

Rationale and overall purpose

The destruction of cultural property in the course of armed conflicts has been all too common in recent years, with repeated, egregious violations of the existing international legal rules aimed at safeguarding the cultural heritage of all mankind. Such crimes highlight an urgent need to encourage and ensure the implementation of the *1954 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and of its two Protocols*, together with the overall international regime regarding the protection of cultural property.

Eight of the 13 countries covered by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa have ratified the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania); and out of them only 3 have ratified its first protocol (Djibouti, Ethiopia and Madagascar) and 2 have ratified its second protocol (Djibouti and Madagascar).

Periodic reporting is an important mechanism that allows the States Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols to collect and disseminate information on measures taken, prepared or contemplated by their respective authorities in the fulfillment of the above-mentioned treaties. These reports also constitute an essential source of information for cultural heritage professionals, researchers and policy makers who are looking for information on actions taken by Governments to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and its two Protocols. The submission of the national reports on the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two protocols to the Director-General of UNESCO every four years is required by these treaties. State Parties to the 1954 Convention and its Protocols are required to submit quadrennial periodic reports for the period of 2017-2020 by 30 June 2021.

This activity will facilitate the successful completion and timely submission of the periodic reports of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, through the organization of online information meetings to present the periodic reporting format and advised methodology as well as by availing financial support for the advancement of the report to each State Party. Moreover, an online regional awareness raising meeting will be organized for all 13 Member States in the Eastern Africa Region in order to share experiences in protecting cultural property and elaborate recommendations to strengthen the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict in the Eastern Africa region.

UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999)

The [Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict](#) was adopted at The Hague (Netherlands) in 1954 in the wake of massive destruction of cultural heritage during the Second World War. It is the first international treaty with a world-wide vocation focusing exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict. It covers immovable and movable cultural heritage, including monuments of architecture, art or history, archaeological sites, works of art, manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest, as well as scientific collections of all kinds regardless of their origin or ownership. The States Parties to the Convention benefit from their mutual commitment, with a view to sparing cultural heritage from consequences of possible armed conflicts through the implementation of the following measures:

- Adoption of peacetime safeguarding measures such as the preparation of inventories, the planning of emergency measures for protection against fire or structural collapse, the preparation for the removal of movable cultural property or the provision for adequate in situ protection of such property, and the designation of competent authorities responsible for the safeguarding of cultural property;

- Respect for cultural property situated within their own territory as well as within the territory of other States Parties by refraining from any use of the property and its immediate surroundings or of the appliances in use for its protection for purposes likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict; and by refraining from any act of hostility directed against such property;
- Consideration of the possibility of registering a limited number of refuges, monumental centres and other immovable cultural property of very great importance in the International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection order to obtain special protection for such property;
- Consideration of the possibility of marking of certain important buildings and monuments with a distinctive emblem of the Convention;
- Establishment of special units within the military forces to be responsible for the protection of cultural property;
- Sanctions for breaches of the Convention; and,
- Wide promotion of the Convention within the general public and target groups such as cultural heritage professionals, the military or law-enforcement agencies.

Project outcomes and activities

The expected outcome of the project will be to increase capacities of State Parties in the effective protection of cultural property through monitoring and periodic reporting on the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, and raise awareness on the benefits of ratification among the countries yet to ratify in the Eastern Africa region.

This project will provide support to State Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, to fulfil the requirement to submit their periodic reports based upon the guidance of the 1954 Convention and its Second Protocol. This mechanism allows for dissemination of information on measures taken to give effect on the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention. To this end, training workshops will be organised for State Parties to the Convention and its Protocols in the Eastern Africa regions using the UNESCO's periodic reporting questionnaire. The project also aims at using this platform to raise awareness about the importance of protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and encourage ratification to the countries that have not yet ratified both of the Protocols to this Convention.

Following the successful completion and submission of their periodic reports, a regional awareness raising meeting will be organized in order to shared experiences and lessons learned with all 13 countries covered by the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa; and to develop Recommendations to strengthen protection of cultural property in the Eastern Africa region.

The main activities/outputs of the project will include:

1. Introductory meeting to provide guidance on the elaboration of the quadrennial reporting questionnaire for eight State Parties that have ratified the 1954 Hague convention and its two Protocols in Eastern Africa (namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania). Two separate meetings will be held for this purpose - one in English and the other in French;
2. Facilitate the elaboration of the report questionnaire for eight State Parties to the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols by offering a 2000 USD subvention to each State Party to support coordination meetings and other preparation costs;
3. Organize a final meeting for all thirteen countries in the Eastern Africa region to raise awareness on this Convention and its two protocols, share lessons learnt and develop recommendations for the protection of cultural properties in the event of armed conflict.

Summary of outcomes, outputs and activities

Outcome N°1 Eight East African State Parties to 1954 Convention have assessed and documented the protection of cultural property in their countries
Output N°1: Eight periodic reports prepared in a participatory manner and submitted to the 1954 Convention Secretariat by 30 June 2021
Activity 1.1: Preparation and implementation of training workshop on the elaboration of the quadrennial report
Activity 1.2: Financial support to eight States Parties in Eastern African region to coordinate and prepare national periodic reports
Outcome N°2 Advocacy for ratification of 1954 and its 2 protocols. Regional assessment and recommendations for strengthening protection of cultural property in the region
Output N°2: Increased awareness of the UNESCO 1954 Convention and its resources
Activity 2.1 13 Member States in UNESCO's Eastern Africa region participate in an awareness raising meeting on the benefits of ratifying the 1954 Conventions and the two Protocols, share lessons and recommendations for the protection of cultural property

Implementation Strategy

UNESCO will develop a programme and avail resources to ensure all State Parties of the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols in the Eastern Africa region have successfully prepared their quadrennial periodic reports in a participatory manner and submitted them to UNESCO by the deadline.

An introductory meeting will be held (one in English, and one in French) with 8 State Parties to the Convention (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania) to share key aspects of the Convention, the quadrennial reporting questionnaire and demonstrate reporting expectations.

Financial resources of USD 2,000 each will be availed to each State Party to facilitate the formation of a team, meetings and preparation of the report

A final meeting will be held to with all 13 Member States of the UNESCO Region for eastern Africa, to raise awareness, review results of the report, share experiences, lessons learnt and recommendations for strengthening protection of cultural property in eastern Africa.

All project activities will draw upon the guidance of the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocols, as well as Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of 1999 Second Protocol.

Stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners

The prime targets and stakeholders of this project are the national authorities responsible for culture and related government agencies in the 13 countries covered by the Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

Ownership:

In this project, UNESCO will work closely with the UNESCO National Commissions and Ministries responsible for Culture of all State Parties to the 1954 Convention and its Protocols, and national authorities to ensure successful completion of the quadrennial periodic report, which is due on 30 June 2021.

Draft Budget Outline

	Activity		Budget USD
A	Facilitation of elaboration of the report	Ratification	
1	Djibouti	1954 HC I Protocol II Protocol	2000
2	Eritrea	1954 HC	2000
3	Ethiopia	1954 HC I Protocol	2000
4	Rwanda	1954 HC	2000
5	Madagascar	1954 HC I Protocol II Protocol	2000
6	Mauritius	1954 HC	2000
7	Seychelles	1954 HC	2000
8	Tanzania	1954 HC	2000
B	Organization of online meetings		
	Introductory meetings (organized separately in English & French in January 2021)		0
	Final Awareness Raising and Feedback meeting with interpretation into English and French (June/July 2021)		3937
C	TOTAL		19937