



SAFEGUARDING THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

of the

DUTCH CARIBBEAN AND SURINAME

Sea



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage





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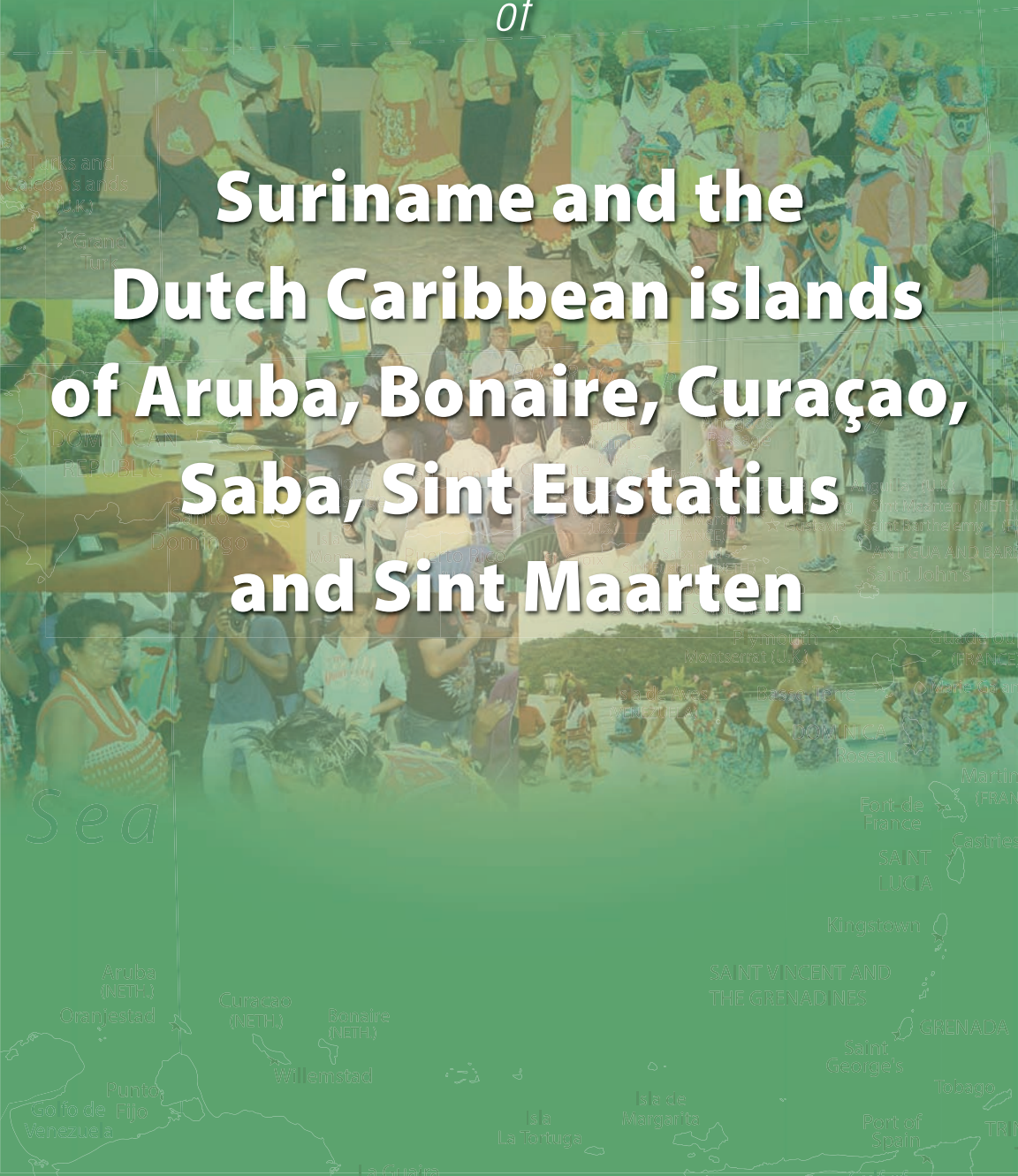


North Atlantic Ocean

Safeguarding The Intangible Heritage

of

Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten



Sea

Aruba (NETH.)
Oranjestad
Punto Gofo de Fijo
Venezuela
Curacao (NETH.)
Willemstad
Bonaire (NETH.)
Isla La Tortuga
Isla Margarita
Sint Maarten (NETH.)
Sint Eustatius (NETH.)
Saba (NETH.)
Plymouth
Montserrat (U.K.)
Roseau
DOWNTOWN
Castries
Kingstown
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
Saint George's
Tobago
Grenada
Martinique (FRANCE)
Guadeloupe (FRANCE)
Saint John's
Saint Lucia
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Trinidad and Tobago
Trinidad



Katherine Grigsby

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNESCO KINGSTON CLUSTER OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN

The UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean is pleased to have been involved in yet another project supporting the global capacity-building efforts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2014, our Office commenced the project 'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,' while also implementing the project 'Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage of

Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.' Both these projects, successfully implemented, are within the context of the Cluster Office's commitment to strengthen implementation of the 2003 Convention, and particularly the sustainable use of intangible heritage to foster national and regional development.

This Project was implemented with the support of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section at UNESCO Headquarters and in partnership with entities in all seven beneficiary territories and the Netherlands. The Project facilitated training of representatives from Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Suriname, through a series of workshops in keeping with the global capacity-building strategy for this Convention, focusing on national consultations with stakeholders, its implementation at the national level, inventorying of intangible heritage with a community focus, and culminating in a field exercise in each territory. These trainings have been successful in raising awareness in each country, as well as in increasing the capacity to document intangible heritage, while considering the requirements for sustainably managing this heritage in the face of globalization. Our Office celebrates the rich diversity of heritage in the Caribbean region and the important role it plays in the sustainable development of these nations, and in many respects, the many manifestations of heritage underpin and facilitate the growth of tourism industries.

UNESCO'S continued commitment to celebrating the Caribbean's diversity is evidenced by the elements from the Caribbean inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, such as the Maroon Heritage of Moore Town (Jamaica), Language, Dance and Music of the *Garifuna* (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), *Gwoka*: music, song, dance and cultural practices representative of Guadeloupien identity (Guadeloupe), and *La Tumba Francesca* (Cuba).

In addition, the centrality of culture as a tool for development is explicit in the fashioning of the UNESCO Special Initiative for the Caribbean (SPIC). This 'Initiative,' is the 'confluence of UNESCO'S global focus and the development imperatives of the Caribbean region (Caribbean Strategic Plan for the Community, UNESCO's Plan of Action and Implementation Strategy for SIDS and the United Nations Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework),' and articulates the Office's work plan for the coming years, by proposing an integrated approach to sustainable development.

The UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean remains committed to assisting Caribbean economies identify the various avenues for using culture as a tool for development, particularly in this Post 2015 Development Agenda.



Tim Curtis

REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE 2003 CONVENTION

The Caribbean is home to a myriad of intangible cultural heritage practices and expressions, testifying to a diverse and multicultural heritage encompassing peoples of Indigenous, African, European, Indian, Chinese, and other descent. Together, these practices and expressions that have emerged from these interactions over centuries, constitute a vibrant living heritage of the region and lie at the core of the cultural identities of its communities.

UNESCO's highest priority for implementing the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is the global capacity-building strategy, put in place to strengthen countries' capacities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and for harnessing its potential for sustainable development and the wellbeing of communities.

The global programme focuses on capacity-building services at the country level, combining training, advisory services, stakeholder consultation and pilot activities. It is designed to address key needs in the field of safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, such as the redesign of institutional infrastructures to cater to the specific needs of ICH; the revision of cultural and other policies and legislation; the development of inventory methods and systems; the development of effective safeguarding measures as well as effective participation in the international cooperation mechanisms of the Convention.

In line with this strategy, and through a capacity-building project made possible thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of the Netherlands to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, progress has been made towards building human and institutional capacity in safeguarding the rich living heritage of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Suriname.

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Section remains committed to working closely with the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office in the Caribbean in mobilizing all stakeholders (government, civil society and communities) to continue efforts in the safeguarding of living heritage in the Caribbean.

THE PROJECT

Through an earmarked contribution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, a two-year project (2014-2016) was developed to build national capacities in Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention and the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in these territories. In May 2014, the project '**Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean Islands (Aruba, Curaçao, Saba, St Maarten and the special municipalities of Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius) to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** commenced. This Project was implemented by the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean in coordination with the Intangible Heritage (ITH) Section, UNESCO Headquarters, and concluded July 2016.

It was developed in keeping with the Convention's global capacity-building strategy, while factoring the specific context of each territory. It was also developed in line with the needs and issues identified during the 2013 meeting on ICH in Aruba, involving all Dutch Caribbean islands, and which brought to the fore the need to:

- Strengthen capacities on each island to inventory and safeguard ICH;
- Develop inventories and assess the state of safeguarding intangible heritage on each island;
- Carry out island consultations to involve all stakeholders and to build awareness on the 2003 Convention;
- Involve youth in all safeguarding and promotional activities;
- Address possible threats, such as fast economic development, migration processes, and tourism;
- Identify the effective means for cooperation with partners in the Netherlands, as well as other partners throughout the Dutch Caribbean and the Caribbean sub-region;
- Clarify procedures for submitting nominations in keeping with the internal processes of the Netherlands.

Following **Decision 9.COM 7** at the Ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage Cultural, an additional amount was allocated to reinforce the capacity-building aims of the project through the development of new activities which would further strengthen the implementation of the Convention in these territories.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION

- National stakeholder consultations for Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Suriname. No consultation was planned for Aruba based on previous capacity-building initiatives undertaken 2013-2014;
- Joint training on the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the national level for Dutch islands (IMP);
- Joint training on community-based inventorying of ICH for Dutch islands (INV);
- Field inventory exercises in Aruba (*Dia di Brasil*), Bonaire (*haladó*, traditional Bonaire music), Curaçao (*kachu*, the harvest festival and *benta*), Saba (maypole dance), Sint Eustatius (string band music), Sint Maarten (*Ponum* dance) and Suriname (*koto*);
- National training on the implementation of the Convention in Suriname (IMP);
- National training on community-based inventorying of ICH in Suriname (INV);
- Workshop on 'Developing Safeguarding Plans for ICH' for Dutch islands and Suriname (SAFE)

Primary partners for the implementation of this project have included the National Commissions for UNESCO in *Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten, Suriname* and the Netherlands in the case of the special municipalities of *Bonaire, Saba* and *St. Eustatius*. The project also maintains direct contact with ICH Committees in each beneficiary territory, as these Committees have proved critical to the successful implementation of the Project.

At the start of the project, Suriname had not ratified the Convention as yet, however recommendations have been submitted to the Cabinet of the Surinamese Government for the Convention to be ratified.

The Willemstad Declaration was developed by the Dutch islands at the joint training on community-based inventorying, and elaborates a sub-regional strategy for the implementation of the Convention moving forward. A Working Group has now been established to coordinate all activities amongst the islands.



ARUBA and the 2003 Convention

Aruba participated in a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean, which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy'* organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During this activity, the future cooperation between the islands and the Netherlands was discussed. As a country with its own autonomous governing within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruba co-ratified this Convention in 2012. Also in 2012, a ministerial working group formally advised the Minister of Culture to establish a Foundation for intangible cultural heritage - *Fundacion Herencia Cultural Inmaterial*, which would be responsible for the execution of the 2003 Convention. In 2013 and 2014, workshops (facilitated by the UNESCO Havana Office) were held in Aruba to introduce the Convention. Also in 2013, a sub-regional meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. For Aruba, awareness raising was indicated as a critical area. From this meeting, the needs identified for the implementation of the Convention formulated the project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage.'**

Activities

- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise on *'Dia di Brasil'* (Aruba, May – June 2016)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)

Aruba did not attend the joint island training on the implementation of the Convention.



Dande: traditional Aruban celebration developed in the 1800's to welcome the New Year

Achievements and benefits

- Greater awareness regarding safeguarding of ICH facilitated;
- Inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental field team in place for documentation of ICH in Aruba;
- The Department of Culture and the Department of Education are jointly working on curriculum standards concerning intangible cultural heritage;
- The Aruba Teacher Training College now offers courses in Intangible Cultural Heritage Education.

Challenges

The Fundacion Herencia Cultural Inmaterial was established in 2013, however its activities ceased in 2014 due to a lack of personnel and budget. Since then, responsibility for the implementation of the Convention has been placed in the hands of the Aruba National Commission for UNESCO. Unfortunately, the work of the National Commission is seriously hampered by limited personnel and budget.

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- Aruba has received technical assistance from Curaçao in the provision of training on community-based inventorying of ICH;
- The National Library of Aruba holds a number of archives on oral history which will be digitized;



Playing of the Tingilingi-Box (Caha di Orgel)



Fiesta di San Juan and Dera gai: tradition for the remembrance of the apostle San Juan Bautista

- The National Archives published a number of reports on Intangible Cultural Heritage combining oral history and historical documentation;
- The research department of the Ministry of Culture of Aruba has an oral history programme - 'Operacion Rescate,' and is presently digitizing collections. Training provided through the ICH Project will greatly benefit this programme.

Moving forward

- Undertake additional training for professionals and the field inventorying team;
- Implement a programme for participatory safeguarding strategies for both ICH professionals and communities;
- Lobby for the installation of a Council to formulate a national implementation plan for ICH in Aruba.



BONAIRE and the 2003 Convention

Bonaire first participated in activities related to the Convention as part of the Netherlands Antilles in June 2010, at the UNESCO sub-regional meeting on ICH in Grenada. Bonaire also participated in a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean, which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy'* organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a Special Municipality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bonaire is covered under this ratification. In 2013, a meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. For Bonaire, this included a need for educational materials, additional capacity-building and support for non-governmental institutions. The project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** started for Bonaire with a joint Dutch island training on the implementation of the Convention.

Project activities

- Joint island training on implementing the Convention at the national level (St. Maarten, September 2014)
- National stakeholder consultation (January 2015)
- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise (May – June 2015)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)



Maskara: traditional New Year's Day celebration where performers move from venue to venue. These revelers cannot speak, must be covered and depend on antics

Achievements and benefits

- There is now a trained and dedicated team consisting of a diverse group of professionals, youth and governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- The UNESCO Workgroup, established in March 2015, has facilitated wide-spread awareness of ICH matters and broad participation in the national dialogue on ICH;
- The field exercise brought forward new collaborators in documenting ICH and these are still active;
- Preliminary national inventory developed in consultation with practitioners and communities and pending additional consultations.

Challenges

- Much of the work is being done on a volunteer basis without paid personnel and adequate resources to guarantee sustainability;
- Limited participation of youth, as typically, the more engaged youth leave the island for educational opportunities abroad.

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- The Project has resulted in a ripple effect in local organizations such as *FUHIKUBO* (training of cultural agents) and *Mangazina di Rei* (regular ICH activities and permanent exhibit) and in the proposed Cultural Policy Plan involving the only secondary and vocational school on the island;
- The Venezuelan Consulate, also active in the area of cultural exchange, recently introduced the UNESCO Workgroup to the Director of the Intangible Heritage Institute of Venezuela to discuss opportunities for future cooperation;
- A two-day conference was organized with *FUHIKUBO* and more awareness raising activities, cultural exchanges and cooperation will be organized for the future.

Moving forward

The UNESCO Bonaire Work group will try to obtain more funding so that the capacity-building activities can be done on a regular and sustainable basis.



Haladó: traditional healing being practiced



CURAÇAO and the 2003 Convention

Curaçao first participated in activities related to the Convention in June 2010, at the UNESCO sub-regional meeting on ICH in Grenada. The following year, in 2011, the National Commission for UNESCO organized the first national consultation for Curaçao, facilitated by the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean. From this, a Steering Committee was formed to coordinate the implementation of the Convention. Fifty ICH elements were identified that time. Curaçao also participated in a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean, which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy'* organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During this activity, the future cooperation between the islands and the Netherlands was discussed. As a country with its own autonomous governing within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Curaçao can also co-ratify this Convention. In 2013, a meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. The project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** started with a national consultation with stakeholders 24-25 June 2014.

Project activities

- Joint island training on implementing the Convention at the national level (St. Maarten, September 2014)
- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise on *benta* and *kachu* (Curaçao, August - October 2015)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)

Achievements and benefits

- Teaching and learning materials have been developed, to include a teaching kit (poster, teacher manual, DVD on ICH elements); ICH games created by persons trained;
- Teachers and after school instructors trained on ICH, as well as others in culture sector;
- Elaboration of a preliminary inventory of ICH as part of a general national inventory for heritage;
- Greater awareness regarding the safeguarding of ICH elements facilitated by the establishment of *Tambú* (traditional drum) and *Kaha di òrgel* (street organ) Museums, writing of 2 *kachu* (cow horn) booklets; traditional herbalism books, interest in the *seú* harvest festival, a book on popular games, and a kite festival from the 1980s;
- National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) functioning well as focal institution for ICH Convention;
- Development of the Cultural Heritage Map of Curaçao with 116 elements identified.



Tambu practitioner drumming for rain

Challenges

- Trying to solve all identity problems through ICH, using it as a catch all for several social issues, including dealing with the slavery past, social ills, and socio-economic development issues;
- Addressing authenticity as a narrative in a (post) colonial setting;
- Difficulty in strategically thinking about the role of the Convention in sustaining ICH;
- Need to embed ICH in local political understandings, and the place of ICH in cultural policy;
- Greater involvement of schools in teaching ICH needed with more extensive use of ICH pedagogical materials.



Filingrana goldsmith craft: Master goldsmith and stone setter Regales looking at his creation of traditional Curaçaoan filigree



Blowing of the kachu (horn) used to announce births, deaths and important events such as the harvest festival

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- Curaçao is implementing a Man and the Biosphere project, which considers the ICH related to the areas planned as core and buffer zone;
- The SIDS Chair at the University of Curaçao is examining herbalism as an aspect of sustainable traditional practice;
- The Project has reinforced various practitioner and NGO led initiatives that inform Curaçao's ICH intentions and activities such as the Tula Museum, the *Kas di Palu di Mainshi* living history museum, the *Museo di Tambu Shon Cola*, the *Den Paradera* Herb Garden, the annual *seu* harvest festival and Culture Week.

Moving forward

- Further incorporation of ICH in cultural policy development as the current policy is being revised;
- Improved cooperation with other countries of the Dutch Caribbean;
- Transforming the ICH Committee toward a new role from general advisory group to one dedicated to advising on and monitoring the implementation of the Convention.



SABA and the 2003 Convention

Saba first participated in activities related to the Convention as part of a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean, which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy'*, organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During this activity, the future cooperation between the islands and the Netherlands was discussed. As a Special Municipality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Saba is covered under this ratification. In 2013, a meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. For Saba, this identified limited mechanisms in place to set up, implement or monitor the safeguarding of ICH as well as the need for greater awareness, particularly amongst communities. The project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** started for Saba with a joint Dutch island training on the implementation of the Convention.

Project activities

- Joint island training on implementing the Convention at the national level (St. Maarten, September 2014)
- National stakeholder consultation (January 2015)
- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise (May – June 2015)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)



Children learning the maypole



Practitioner of Saba lace work

Achievements and benefits

- Clearly expressed interest in seeing the revival of dormant practices and a revitalization of those at risk;
- Field exercise brought forward new collaborators in documenting ICH;
- Preliminary national inventory developed in consultation with practitioners and communities.

Challenges

- An ICH Committee is in place, however, members are volunteers with full time jobs;
- An entity is needed that incorporates ICH activities as part of its regular operations.

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- Youth benefited from collaboration between Saba and St. Maarten, in that a practitioner from St. Maarten presented workshops on the revitalization of the maypole dance;
- The ICH Committee has partnered with the Saba Archaeological Centre (SABARC) to further the preservation and promotion of ICH.

Moving forward

- Funding to be sought for more capacity-building initiatives among practitioners, the transferring of knowledge to youth, increased documentation of elements and the inclusion of ICH practices during national events;
- Further promotion of the 'open house' concept at the Saba Heritage Centre, where residents are invited to come and share their oral histories.



ST. EUSTATIUS and the 2003 Convention

St. Eustatius first participated in activities related to the Convention at a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy*, organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a Special Municipality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, St. Eustatius is covered under this ratification. During this activity, the future cooperation between the islands and the Netherlands was discussed. In 2013, a meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. For St. Eustatius, this included inventorying the island's ICH, devising a cultural policy, mapping the field of stakeholders, and listing the island's ICH carriers. The project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** started for St. Eustatius with a joint Dutch island training on the implementation of the Convention.

Project activities

- Joint island training on implementing the Convention at the national level (St. Maarten, September 2014)
- National stakeholder consultation (January 2015)
- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise (May – June 2015)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)



The Sain: catching of the jackfish

Achievements and benefits

- Widespread awareness of the 2003 Convention as a result of the National Consultation;
- Extensive inventorying work undertaken for an element essential to traditional St. Eustatius social life and celebrations, as performers are getting up in age with the risk of this musical expression disappearing;
- Good involvement of youth from the St. Eustatius Historical Foundation's Simon Doncker Youth Club and pupils of elementary schools. A Workshop was organized for the youth to build their awareness and appreciation of this element;
- National inventory of ICH elements developed in consultation with practitioners and communities.

Challenges

- No cultural policy is in place, which would assist in guiding how ICH is safeguarded;
- An ICH Committee is in place, however members are volunteers. Due to the small scale of the island, the same group of persons do everything, and if one is not available for any reason, things could come to a halt;
- For many young people, St. Eustatius is too small so they leave and often do not return. This constitutes a major challenge to transmission and therefore to continuity;
- As in many other places, another issue is the understanding of the relevance of safeguarding ICH – both in terms of national identity and social cohesion and economy (added value for visitors).



Practitioner sharing his knowledge of St. Eustatius string band music

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- A joint project was initiated with the National Parks to plant Prickly Pears (*Opuntia Ficus Indica*) so that the local traditional drink *blijden* can be made again;
- Developing a theatrical version of the traditional street performance ‘*negah business*’ for regular showing during the Christmas week;
- Recent training on community tourism. Traditional local drinks, foods and snacks are integral to community tourism, as are song, dance and music and traditional handicrafts, agriculture and fishing.

Moving forward

- In order for ICH matters to be consistently and effectively addressed, initiatives generated by the Project, should be transferred to an entity that incorporates them in to their regular operations;
- ICH efforts should be incorporated into the events organised by the Culture Department as well as in the school curriculum;
- A culture policy is needed;
- Conclude documentation of Statia String Band Music, and through the media, build further awareness.



Teaching the young crocheting



ST. MAARTEN and the 2003 Convention

St. Maarten first participated in activities related to the Convention in June 2010 at the UNESCO sub-regional meeting on ICH in Grenada. St. Maarten also participated in a special meeting and consultation between the Netherlands and the islands of the Dutch Caribbean which took place within the conference *'Intangible Heritage - Chances and Opportunities for Policy'* organised by the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage in 2012, on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During this activity, the future cooperation between the islands and the Netherlands was discussed. As a country with its own autonomous governing within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, St. Maarten later co-ratified this Convention (May 2015). In 2013, a meeting was organized in Aruba with the participation of all Dutch Caribbean islands, from which the needs of the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention were identified. The project **'Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and Dutch Caribbean islands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage'** started with a national consultation with stakeholders in July 2014.

Project activities

- Joint island training on implementing the Convention at the national level (St. Maarten, September 2014)
- Joint island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015)
- Field inventorying exercise on the ponum dance (St. Maarten, July 2015)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)

Achievements and benefits

- Preliminary inventory developed, to include ICH in need of safeguarding;
- Several face to face awareness raising sessions held to discuss the draft ICH inventory with senior citizens' groups, government officials and departments, schools, youth groups, afterschool programmes, service clubs, and other organizations within the community;
- ICH elements shared on UNESCO St. Maarten's Facebook page as an additional dialogue and engagement tool;
- Youth from various youth organizations featured prominently in the inventorying field exercises. Sessions focused on developing their knowledge and understanding of heritage and the importance of identifying, safeguarding and inventorying it. Youth were keen to interview practitioners of the Ponum dance;
- National survey launched in June 2016 <http://www.sintmaartengov.org/government/ECYS/Pages/Intangible-Cultural-Heritage-Inventory.aspx>

Challenges

- Limited human resources, particularly for inventorying - number of members who comprise the ICH Committee needs to be increased, to include more NGOs from communities and volunteers;
- Funding needed to train more persons regarding the Convention and importance of safeguarding as well as the development of learning materials.

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- The Government's Department of Communication has entered in to a cooperation arrangement to improve documentation of ICH and recordings televised on the Government's television channel to the public;
- Project launched with second and third form students at the Charlotte Brookson Academy High School re their legacy fifty years from now.

Moving forward

- Analysis of data from national survey conducted for intangible heritage;
- Organization of a second national consultation (late 2016);
- Updating of draft inventory based on consultations and survey;
- Obtaining government approval of preliminary inventory;
- Create learning materials relating to ICH;



Students of the Belvedere Community after school programme showing their traditional herb garden

- Launch of media awareness campaign;
- Undertaking of workshops in educational institutions by the Crafters' Association and other practitioners;
- Training more persons for the increased documentation of ICH.



Youth being taught traditional boat making at the Belvedere After School programme



Moko jumbi stilt walkers



SURINAME and the 2003 Convention

Although Suriname has not yet ratified the 2003 Convention, much work has taken place regarding the documentation and safeguarding of Surinamese living heritage. The Department of Cultural Studies has been appointed by the Directorate of Culture to coordinate ICH activities for the entire Surinamese community. Through the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean, a workshop was organized in 2013 focusing on building awareness of all the culture conventions of UNESCO. The project **‘Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage’** started with a national consultation with stakeholders and training on the Implementation of the Convention in July 2015.

Project activities

- Training on the implementation of the Convention at the national level (July 2015)
- Training on community-based inventorying (April 2016)
- Field inventorying exercise on *koto* (July 2016)
- Joint training on Developing Safeguarding Plans (Curaçao, May 2016)

Achievements and benefits

- Trained cadre of Surinamese ICH agents representing major cultural associations and youth organizations. This group meets on a regular basis to continue work on ICH matters;
- Development of ICH Recommendations (e.g. establishment of ICH Awareness Committee and ICH Steering Committee, also the compiling of a national inventory);
- Weekly ‘ICH Work Meeting’ at the Department of Cultural Studies to discuss and work on ICH matters;



Wanda Denz (91 years old) explains the different parts of the Koto

- Greater awareness amongst policy makers and the Council of Ministers regarding the 2003 Convention;
- Ratification process commenced for the 2003 Convention;
- Organization of stakeholder meetings by the Directorate of Culture with major cultural organizations with regard to the inventorying process;
- Drafting of a preliminary inventory of Suriname's ICH by the Department of Cultural Studies;
- The field inventory exercise on *Koto* resulted in a high level of motivation for future field inventorying.

Challenges

- Greater ICH awareness is required, including training of persons who can work in communities in the various cultural groups;
- Limited knowledge transfer opportunities;
- Although there is now a cadre of trained professionals on inventorying, there is still an issue with limited funding support.

Synergies with other countries, partners and projects

- Improved cooperation and collaboration between the diverse cultural groups as well as academia (i.e Maroons with Afro-Surinamese).

Moving forward

- Further lobbying for the ratification of the 2003 Convention;
- Development of legislation for the safeguarding of ICH and illicit trafficking of cultural goods;
- Stronger and regular collaboration amongst all cultural groups;
- Identification of relevant donor (organizations);
- Expanding the number of those trained, particularly in communities;
- Expanding the digitization of previously documented ICH;
- Utilizing the media to promote greater awareness of intangible heritage.



Jarang Kepang Horse Ritual



Awasa dance of the Maroons of Suriname where dancers traditionally tell a story with their gestures or embellish the story that is being sung



Banya Prisiri dance of the Afro-Surinamese community originating in slavery. Dance is done by shuffling feet backwards

Charting the Way Forward: Reflections on the Willemstad Declaration, Richenel Ansano

The project “Strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean to implement the Convention for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage” brought together cultural agents from the six islands in a way that, unexpectedly, highlighted some specific needs and offered new possibilities. The implementation of the Convention and the strategies that were being considered came in a historic, cultural, regional and political administrative context that was very specific to this group of Caribbean islands.

Only three years before the announcement of the project, new constitutional relationships became a reality within the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba’s autonomous status was redefined and the Netherlands Antilles, a federation of five islands had stopped existing. By the time the project started there were three autonomous countries within the Dutch Caribbean: Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curaçao. The other three islands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, had become Special Municipalities of the Netherlands.

As challenging as this configuration might seem from the outside, it was even more complex because of other historical, political and geographical factors. The islands are grouped into two distinct geographical clusters: the Windward Islands that comprise Sint Maarten and the Special Municipalities of Saba and Sint Eustatius, and the Leewards, consisting of Aruba and Curaçao and the Special Municipality of Bonaire. Historically, islands of each cluster were much more connected with each other although people have circulated among all the different islands since the 17th century.

Within this context, implementation had some specific issues that needed attention, such as how to effectively promote islands’ shared ICH elements, bridging the administrative divides of three countries, three special municipalities and the country of The Netherlands, raising awareness about current collaborations, devising further practical ways of cooperation, and supporting each other in using limited human and financial resources. Offers from The Netherlands to help with logistics of inventorying and public visibility of the ICH elements through a common website made participants reflect on the diversity of social conditions, configurations of ICH, community awareness, safeguarding efforts and results, and historically conditioned approaches on each island and between the islands. Participants felt that in her generous offer The Netherlands seemed unaware of these conditions and the need for a diversified but collaborative approach driven by the ICH communities of each island. This realization and the wish to productively collaborate among each other and with the Netherlands led to the **Willemstad Declaration**.

During the Joint Dutch island training on community-based inventorying (Curaçao, February 2015) the islands agreed on basic points of departure regarding the importance of a strategic use of a community based approach (besides the Convention-delineated reasons), the role of education and awareness, the importance of inter-island networking, the difficulties of youth participation and the need to incorporate implementation in the insular rules and regulations.

An informal assessment during the ICH Safeguarding Workshop (Curaçao, May 2016) of the progress since the signing of the **Willemstad Declaration** indicated that attention was being paid to most of the agreed upon statements by all islands. The two areas that required most attention were on one hand inter-island networking and other forms of cooperation, and on the other hand relating the Convention to local rules and regulations. In this context Aruba decided to use previously allocated and unused Dutch ICH capacity building resources to fund a series of inter-island work sessions to develop a framework and mechanism of cooperation to be done in 2016. The **Willemstad Declaration** was also a useful guide for a first meeting with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science assessing strengths and bottlenecks in the relationship between the islands and the Netherlands in the implementation process. Both regional and Kingdom initiatives will be considered in the upcoming cooperation workshops, extending the UNESCO capacity building to cover regional needs in a more permanent manner. In the meantime, participants have renewed their commitment that all these developments ought, in the end, to be aimed at supporting the process of working with the ICH bearers and their communities to safeguard the ICH of all the islands.

Dutch Caribbean Sub-Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Willemstad Declaration of Intent (28 February 2015)

The document below outlines a Sub-regional strategy for the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten developed on this day of February 28th, 2015 in the Kurá Hulanda, Tula conference room.

Context

1. The context of this declaration is the participation in the “Joint Training on Community Based Inventorying” for the project ‘strengthening the capacities of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten and Suriname to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage’.

Community Based Approach

2. The group of participants of this joint training will engage all stakeholders including community elders, youth, practitioners, transmitters, cultural organizations, implementing agencies and all other actors with the purpose of including them in the inventorying, transmission and safeguarding of our intangible cultural heritage.
3. The group of participants commit to the promotion of responsible and ethical use of any source of information in accordance with the spirit of the 2003 Convention.

Education and Awareness

4. Recognizing the varying constitutional status of the islands, the group of participants of this joint training will facilitate and lobby for the creation of educational materials and programs meant to incorporate the teaching of traditions on ICH in school curricula at all levels as well as in after school activities and informal contexts.
5. The group of participants of this joint training will inform the different constituencies on the convention and the status of implementation within the sub-region; this will vary for the different communities.
6. The group will undertake education and awareness initiatives through different media platforms with emphasis on new technologies.

Networking

7. The islands will coordinate an inter-island mechanism of cooperation. Each island will determine one representative to form a part of the unified coordinating mechanism of said cooperation and for other aspects of implementation. Each island representative will have to be part of their respective island organizational infrastructure for implementing the convention.
8. The group of participants of this joint training will undertake to examine both commonalities and differences with respect to inventorying, creation of education materials, teaching methods, and safeguarding strategies.
9. The group of participants agree to conduct exchange for the purpose of building capacities among the islands and to contribute available resources and assets.

Youth

10. The group of participants will include the youth in all the above curriculum development, awareness raising, community based approaches and networking processes. Each island will identify a youth representative under the age of 25, facilitate the development of youth programs for the inventorying, transmission and safeguarding of ICH elements, and facilitate the compilation of a youth ICH list. The participants acknowledge that this is a UNESCO requirement but find that it will be difficult to implement. They therefore also propose to approach UNESCO to amend this requirement to include representatives of groups and organizations for the youth under 25.

Rules and regulations

11. With respect to implementing the convention, the group of participants will undertake to consider the existing laws relevant to the convention as well as national laws which may have direct or indirect impact on the implementation.
12. The group of participants will explore the need for implementation of new laws and lobby for their enactment.

The group of participants agree to inform each other of their respective progress on their islands with regard to the above mentioned points on a semi-annual basis.

The group of participants agree to submit the first report in September 2015. The coordinating mechanism will determine the reporting process.

The coordinating mechanism will be established subsequent to the meeting in May 2015.

The group of participants hereby accept this draft plan of action for the implementation of the 2003 convention.

As drafted by:

Aruba National Commission for UNESCO/Fundacion Herencia Cultural Inmaterial, Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO, St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO, ICH Committee St. Eustatius, Werkgroep UNESCO Bonaire

The Project expresses its thanks to the following organizations, groups and practitioners:

Aruba: Aruba National Commission for UNESCO, Centro di Bario, Brazil community, Archivo Nacional Aruba, Fundacion Museo Arubano, Ministry of Culture, Biblioteca Nacional: Biblioteca Nacional, Instituto Pedagogico, University of Aruba, Mrs. Raquel Lampe, (Arts teacher, Culture practitioner and Expert), Josette Burke (University of Aruba, Student of Social Work)

Bonaire: UNESCO Bonaire Workgroup, Mr. Boi Antoin (President of the Cultural Historical Foundation 'FUHIKUBO'); Ms. Liliane de Geus (Link Development), Ms. Alca Sint Jago (Government Directorate in charge of Tangible Heritage (Monuments), Mr. Timoteo Silberie (Department of Culture & Museum 'SKAL'), Ms. Dannick Winklaar (Youth Representative), Mangazina di Rei, Open Air Museum, Bonaire Cultural Experience Centre, and the Venezuelan Consulate (ICH and cultural exchange), Akademia Papiamentu, MIVABO, STINAPA, Museo Chichi'I Tan.

Curaçao: National Commission for UNESCO, National Anthropological Archaeological Memory Museum (NAAM), House of Culture, Museo Kas di Palu di Mainshi, Museo di Tambú, Museo Tula, Desayroyo I Progreso Foundation for After School Instruction (teachers); Practitioners and Experts -

Henri Moen, Shurendy Sint Jacobs, Marwin Ricardo and fellow practitioners, Jeanne Henriquez and Richenel Ansano

Saba: Chizzilala Productions, Miranda Hassell, Lois Joseph, Bodna Guerrier, Flavina Willems, Jenny VanXanten, Practitioners: Franklin Wilson, Will Johnson, Ray Hassell, Roy Smith, Claudia Whitfield, Sarmen Simmons, Ellis Heyliger, Ernest Hassell, Percy Simmons, James Johnson, Lloyd Simmons, Naomi Wilson, Carl Zagers, Beatrix Zagers, Godfred Hassell, Lena Ramirez, Paula Childs, Patricia Nations, Germain Bermain, Leonardo Rodriguez

Sint Eustatius: St. Eustatius Historical Foundation and its Simon Doncker Club, St. Eustatius Monuments Foundation, the Kili Kili Band, Mega D Youth Foundation, SDA School pupils and teachers, Gwendolyn van Putten School students and teachers, Walton Schmidt, Ortix Schmidt, Eric Demming, Charles Lindo, Dion Humphreys, St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation, Chapel Piece Recreational Centre, Dennis Amajan, Golden Rock School. Students: Aleah Williams, Glenroy Belleau, Dianedies van Heyningen, Malshard Hendrix, Khaleed Spanner, Samuel Herrera. St. Eustatius ICH Committee

St. Maarten: The St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO, Crafters' Association, Calypsonian Association, Conscious Agricultural Awakening Foundation, St. Maarten Archaeological Centre (SIMARC), Fisherman's Foundation /Union, Souligua Fyah, National Institute of Arts, Senior Citizens Organization, University of St. Martin (students); Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise; Belvedere Community Centre (students); Afterschool Teachers of the ASA, No Kidding with Our Kids Foundation; Collective Preventative Services; Tourism Ministry; Contestants of the 2015 Junior, Teen, Senior and Mature Carnival Queen Show; St. Maarten Youth Desk; Charlotte Brookson Academy students, Youth Parliament, Funtopia, The SXM Young Ambassadors,

Voice of Our Children, Voice of the Youth, and Teen Times.

Suriname: National Commission for UNESCO, Practitioners: Georgine Breeveld, Irene Burgzorg, Wanda Denz, Maureen Dissels, Irwin Goedhart, Haydi Heikerk, Sjachnaz Pengel, Els Sumter, Winifred van Brest, Koto Museum, Stichting Surinaams Museum (Suriname Museum Foundation), NAKS (Kotomisi Cultural Group, NAKS Akuba, NAKS Wan Rutu, NAKS-ICH Working Group, ICH Committee Members (Directorate of Culture), Trainers: Herman Sniijders, Hillary de Bruin, Santour Foundation, National Archives Institute Suriname (N.A.S.), Sana Budaya, Soerdjan Parohi.

..... Participants' thoughts on the Project

The capacity-building project created better understanding of the Convention and made local issues around implementation much clearer. A deeper effect, however, was awareness and mobilization around culture and raising questions about how to promote sustainability in a community with a history of colonialism and slavery

Richenel Ansano, Curaçao

The trainings were the catalyst and reason for the Sint Maarten National Commission commencing the process of identifying, documenting and safeguarding St. Maarten's intangible cultural heritage. The trainings provided knowledge about the key concepts in the 2003 ICH Convention, and provided the practical / hands on training needed

Marcellia Henry, St. Maarten

It may not be tangible but thoroughly discussed, but each training has a great effect on the majority of the trainees. I dare to claim that both trainings have become a means that fostered more Cultural Heritage awareness and ICH awareness in particular. The April 2016 community-based inventorying training made it clear that the tangible and intangible are intimately entwined. Therefore, both the tangible and the intangible must be safeguarded

Herman Sniijders, Suriname

I am very grateful to UNESCO & OCW to have had the opportunity to participate in the ICH Capacity Building Programme. The staff and trainers were always forthcoming and professional. It was a wonderful up close experience of intense learning and sharing supported by UNESCO's organizational mechanism promoting democracy, diversity & inclusiveness. I feel inspired, confident & energized to keep doing and promoting UNESCO's work in Culture and Education especially on the local policy level

Liliane de Geus, Bonaire

To me the greatest achievement of the Project Strengthening the Capacities of Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean ... is the creation of an environment of awareness where governments and stakeholders gradually start realizing that only by working together, we will reach our goal to professionally preserve, document and develop our living cultural heritage, in order to present it proudly to the international world for recognition

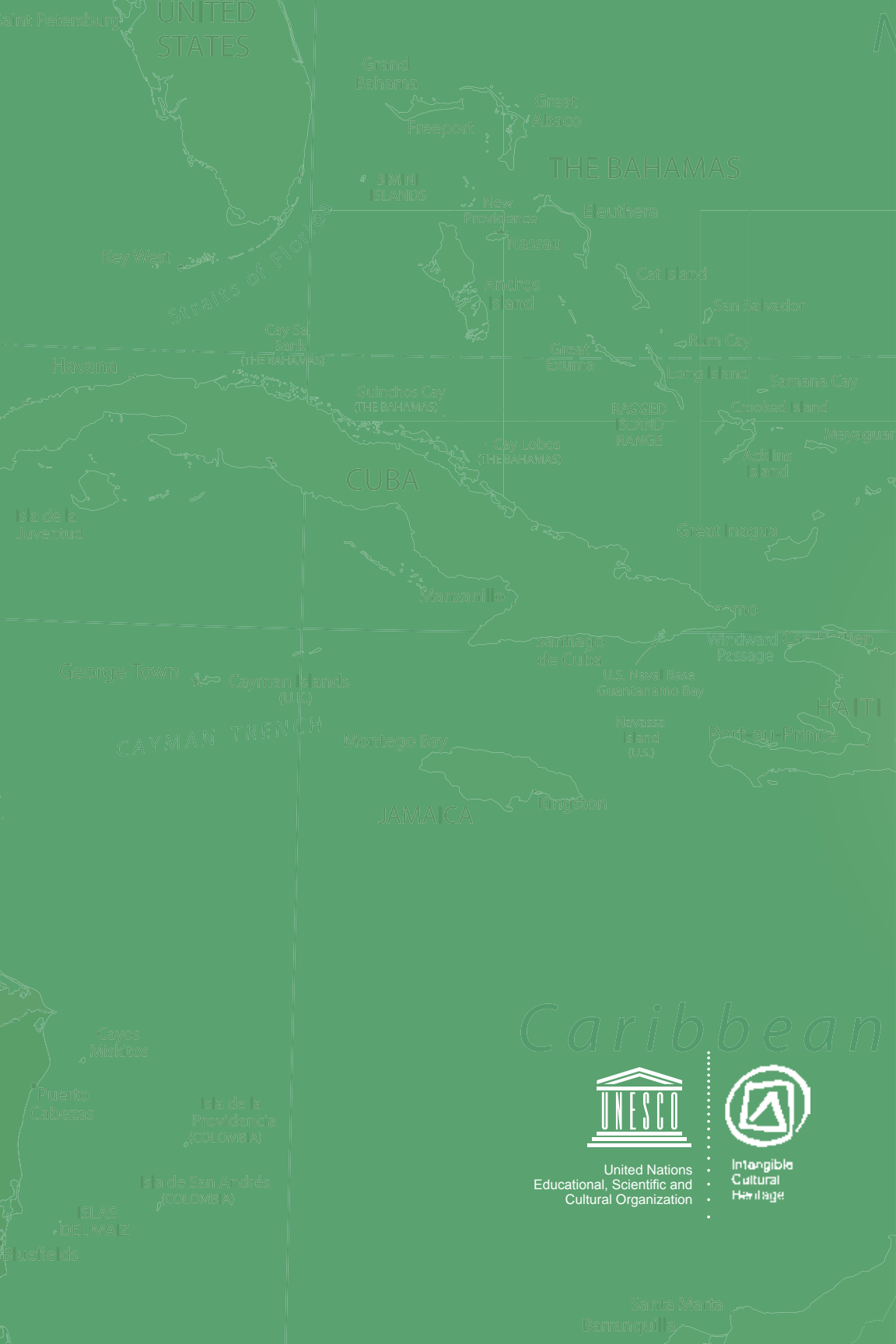
Hillary de Bruin, Suriname

What has fascinated me during the capacity building program is how deeply people are attached to their ICH and how important it is to foster the diversity of human heritage despite ethnic, political, historical strife between individuals, groups and nations. What connects is stronger than what divides

Lucas Alofs, Aruba

All trainings were interesting as well as important and thanks to the organizers and facilitators, via the techniques taught, more knowledge and understanding was gained. Overall, the ICH project important, and through the field exercises, I enjoyed very much meeting with the various knowledge bearers, who were willing to share their ICH elements (via interviews), in hopes that youngsters will pick up their art by also learning it, with continuation of passing it on future generations

Misha Spanner, Sint Eustatius



St. Petersburg

UNITED STATES

Grand Bahama

Freeport

Great Abaco

THE BAHAMAS

3 MINN ISLANDS

New Providence

Eleuthera

Key West

Straits of Florida

Nassau

Andros Island

Cat Island

San Salvador

Havana

Cay Sa Bank (THE BAHAMAS)

Great Exuma

Rum Cay

Long Island

Samana Cay

Guinchos Cay (THE BAHAMAS)

RAGGED SEAND RANGE

Crooked Island

Mayaguez

Cay Lobos (THE BAHAMAS)

Acklins Island

Isla de la Juventud

CUBA

Great Inagua

Manzanillo

Santiago de Cuba

Windward Passage

George Town

Cayman Islands (U.K.)

U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay

CAYMAN TRENCH

Montego Bay

Navassa Island (U.S.)

HAITI

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JAMAICA

Kingston

Cayos Miskitos

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Intangible Cultural Heritage

Santa Marta
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