

VISIONARY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROMOTING ICH EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

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KYRGYZSTAN. COUNTRY PROFILE.



6.523.000 people

199,900 km²

93% is mountainous lands, elevations between **1,000 m** and **7,400 m** above sea level

66% of the population lives in rural areas

KYRGYZ YURT AS ICH ELEMENT



VISIONARY COMMUNITIES



The term “visionary communities” refers to communities with the capacity to act as true leaders in safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

- carefully preserve and enrich their original culture, knowledge and skills without losing the deeper cultural meanings and values;
- have a deeper understanding of the importance and necessity of transferring this knowledge to younger generations;
- strive to improve the well-being of their communities;
- seek and secure support from public organizations and attract the attention of international donors.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



Phase I

Consultations with experts & Discussions

Phase II

Field research (4): interviews (about 70) & focus group discussions (4) in communities; Consultations with experts & Discussions (online & offline)

KYRGYZ YURT MAKERS: Kyzyl-Tuu village



1,700 m above sea level

1,800 people

470 households

167 yurt makers

10% - older generation

60% - middle generation

30% - young generation

Kiyiz Duino (Felt Universe)
Public Foundation

MASTERS OF PATTERNED WEAVING: Sary Mogol village



3,100 m. above sea level

5,257 people

1,035 households

50% of able-bodied people in
labour migration

20% of women are involved in
craftsmanship

**Institute Sustainable
Development Strategy (ISDS)**

FELT CARPET MAKERS: Acha-Kaiyndy village



2,100 m above sea level

5106 people

759 households

40% - poverty level

**CACSARC-kg & Grassroots
organizations**

EAGLE PEOPLE: Bokonbaev village



1,800 m above sea level

10,450 people

30 families keep and raise eagle and falcons and aboriginal hunting dogs

Salbuurun Federation

85% - **12-26** years old

15% - **40-60** years old.

ICH contributions to SDGs

Poverty alleviation (SDG 1)

Gender equality (SDG 5)

Quality Education (SDG 4)

Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)



FINDINGS



- ICH becomes a source for cultural resilience, inspiration, consolidation, and collective responsibility.
- Masters - apprentices system is kept alive.
- Development of tourism became an impetus for development of craftsmanship in the communities.
- Increased self-reliance and resilience, ability to find solutions to challenges and changing situation

ICH EDUCATION: “Master – Apprentice” model in the School of Young Falconers, Bokonbaev village



CHALLENGES



Internal

(social, political & environmental);

External

(religious fundamentalism, globalization, mass & pop-culture; increased pressure on the distinct cultural identity)

FUTURE ORIENTATION OF RESEARCH ON ICH AND ICH SAFEGUARDING

- Research of the living museums: role of community & provincial museums in safeguarding ICH
- Developing educational and methodological guidebooks and training teachers/facilitators on ICH to support informal education in the selected visionary communities;
- Mapping the visionary communities of Kyrgyzstan;
- Organize an international (or Central Asian regional) anthropological conference in partnership with Anthropology Department of American University in Central Asia (AUCA) with the focus on safeguarding the nomadic yurt as ICH with participation of bearers of traditional knowledge.

THANK YOU!



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZfDksINEIA>

