# Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory Exercise

The Department of Culture and Sint Maarten National Commission (NatCom) for the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) within the **Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports (MECYS**), aims to identify, record and safeguard St. Maarten’s Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) by conducting a ***National ICH Inventory***. A National Inventory will enable the Government of Sint Maarten to determine the diverse cultural traditions that exist and create measures for their protection and continuity. St. Maarten is an associate member of UNESCO and has decided to participate in this initiative as mandated by the UNESCO 2003 Convention on ***“Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage”***. ICH is manifested in the following domains[[1]](#footnote-1):  
***(a) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;  
(b) performing arts; (c) social practices, rituals and festive events;  
(d) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;  
(e) traditional craftsmanship***

We hereby would like to invite you to participate in this anonymous Inventory Exercise. *Please answer the questions to your best ability and provide an explanation where necessary. We thank you in advance for your participation.*

1. ***Oral Traditions and Expressions***
2. List any traditional Sint Maarten proverbs or popular sayings that you know of or say.

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1. Name 3 Sint Maarten nursery rhymes, poems and/or games that you know of or say.

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1. Identify any local folktales, legends and/or myths that you’ve heard of.

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1. ***Performing Arts***

1. Identify any Sint Maarten folk or traditional songs, chants that you know of.

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1. Name local folk or traditional dances or movements that that you know of or do.

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1. List 3 local musical instruments that you know of and/ or practice.

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1. ***Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events***
2. Identify beauty or aesthetic routines that you do and are practiced on Sint Maarten. Example: hair braiding, hair/skin care, etc.

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1. List your top 3 Sint Maarten sports or hobbies that you do or are aware of.

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1. Specify 3 Sint Maarten cultural ceremonies that you know of e.g. funeral, baptism, christening.

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1. Name 3 Sint Maarten festivities/celebrations that you practice e.g. birthday, fish fry, arrowroot festival, etc.

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1. List any traditional dishes/delicacies or foods that you prepare or eat.

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1. Is it still our tradition to greet others at different times of the day?
2. Select YES or NO
3. If no, name other formal or informal greetings that we use.

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1. Identify some local gestures / behaviors that we use when communicating e.g. body language, sayings etc.

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1. ***Knowledge and Practices concerning Nature and the Universe***
2. Which local herbal/natural/medicinal remedies/ products do you know of or take?

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1. Which religion/denomination /spiritual practices do you identify with or follow? ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
2. Do you still engage in agricultural / home gardening practices/ techniques?
3. Select YES or NO
4. If yes, what agricultural / home gardening practices/techniques do you still use?

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1. ***Traditional Craftsmanship***

1. Name 3 types of Sint Maarten traditional craftsmanship such as sewing, pottery-making, etc. that you are aware of or do.

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***\*\*Bonus 1.\*\* Do you or your community/neighborhood still practice any ICH elements?*** *Examples: wood carving, fish pot making, agriculture, string band music, ponum, storytelling etc.*

1. Select YES or NO
2. If yes, identify your district (community) and the ICH element(s) that is/are still being practiced.

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***\*\*Bonus 2.\*\* Do you believe some or most of Sint Maarten ICH elements are in danger of being lost?***

1. Select YES or NO
2. If yes, list examples of **Sint Maarten ICH** elements that need to be safeguarded.

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*The Department of Culture and NatCom for UNESCO sincerely thank you for your participation!*

1. Text of the Convention. UNESCO. 2003. <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/convention/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)