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Allow me to give the voice of Namibia on ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Article 19 of the Namibian Constitution of Namibia asserts that every person shall be entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion.

The Universal Declaration on cultural diversity maintains that intangible cultural heritage is a mainspring of cultural diversity. The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity.

Namibia is a signatory to international, continental and regional convention and policy instruments on culture and heritage. As conditions and policy instruments change, Namibia is keeping track with the meaning and relevance on protection of tangible and associated intangible cultural heritage from destruction and deterioration.

The tangible objects in Namibia are protected by the National Heritage Act. There are, however other legislation that can be applied in the management of the tangible objects under the curation of the National Museum of Namibia, National Heritage Council and other regional Museums are protected by other Legislations in general such as Communal Lands Act, Nature Conservation Ordinance Amendment Act.

The National Cooperation in Tourism Policy is very explicit with regard to the protection and presentation of culture and heritage in Namibia. It is also important to note the existence of an area management plan for tangible cultural heritage properties which can be reviewed and incorporated into an integrated management policy for the cultural and natural heritage. The use of the multiplicity of laws to manage heritage resources is often applied.

This is a situation whereby laws that are not specifically designed for heritage resources can be adopted for protecting such heritage properties.

The management plans in place highly recommends the harmonization of the legal instruments identified above and the development of a management coordinated policy.

The National Heritage Council and the National Museum of Namibia is leading the coordination of the various agencies that implement the abovementioned legislation so that they are aware of the protection of rock art in conservancies and communal areas.

The shipwreck discovered in Namibia is protected by the Republic of Namibia through the National Heritage Act. The Act states that all shipwrecks and their articles which are 35 years or more are property of the State. The wreck is believed to have been under water for more than 500 years and consequently the wreck and its associated material culture form part of the Namibian heritage.

Objects are important to the study of the Namibian history because they provide a concrete basis for ideas, and can validate them. Their preservation demonstrates a recognition of the necessity of the past and of the things that tell its story. Objects draw people in and give them a literal way of touching the past.

The agreement concerning the hosting of the tenth session Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was recently signed by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and UNESCO on Monday 5 October 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The tenth session Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

Like many other countries, Namibia is having a Heroes' Acre, an official war memorial of the Republic of Namibia, and operates for the purpose of "fostering a spirit of patriotism and nationalism, and to pass on the legacy to the future generations of Namibia".

The MDG-Fund, which is now known as the SDG fund was working with members of the San community in north-eastern Namibia, the last hunters and gatherers in southern Africa, to take a central role in preserving their cultural heritage through the promotion of tourism.

Namibia's Communal Conservancy Tourism Sector (NACSO) is achieving conservation and community benefits at a scale never before seen in Africa. Namibia was the first African country to incorporate protection of the environment into its constitution, and the government has reinforced this by giving its communities the opportunity and rights to manage their wildlife through communal conservancies.

Today there are 59 registered Communal Conservancies covering 16.8% of the land area of Namibia, or 130,000 km² of prime wildlife habitat. Some 29 joint-venture lodges and campsites operate in partnership with conservancies, a vibrant and growing part of the destination's tourism profile.

I thank you