

CHOLPONAI U-G

ICH WORK EXPERIENCE

Aigine Cultural Research Center, Bishkek, KG 2010 - to present
Head of project implementation unit

- Coordinating ongoing and designing new projects on ICH
- Maintaining close cooperation with ICH communities across the country
- Documenting, preparing inventories on ICH elements and publications
- Conducting field research and in-depth interviews
- Developing and conducting conferences, training courses, seminars at local, regional and international levels and providing on-site logistics
- Producing periodic and final project narrative and financial reports
- Fundraising and grant-writing

Activity in ICH NGO Forum

- Member of the Executive Board of the ICH NGO Forum from the Asia-Pacific, 2022-2024
- Chair of the Working Group for More Balanced Geographical Representation of Accredited NGOs, 2021-2022
- Member of the AdHoc Committee on Regulatory Instruments of the ICH NGO Forum, 2022
- Member of AdHoc group on Article 21 of the ICH NGO Bylaws, 2021
- Member of Working group on Overall Results Framework, 2020





National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO 2016 - to present

External expert and consultant

- Consulting on various subjects related to intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Representing ICH communities of Kyrgyzstan at regional, sub-regional and international events
- Working with ICH communities and preparing nomination files on ICH elements to be inscribed in the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Lists



CONTACT

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EXPERTISE

- ICH project management
- Field research & documentation
- Budget management
- Report writing

EDUCATION

2003, Aug - 2008, June

American University of Central Asia

BA in American Studies
Cum Laude

Diploma in Translation and Interpretation

LANGUAGES

- Russian (native)
- Kyrgyz (native)
- English (professional)
- Ukrainian (beginner)

LIST OF ICH MANAGED PROJECTS

- 2023-2025
Digital Journey to ICH of Kyrgyzstan, supported by Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, UNESCO, France
- 2023-2024
Enriching Kyrgyz Indigenous Knowledge, supported by the Worldwide Indigenous Science Network (WISN), U.S.A.
- 2021-2022
Ayans, their Interpretations and Social Power: Mystery of Petroglyphs, supported by the Worldwide Indigenous Science Network (WISN), U.S.A.
- 2018-2020
Safeguarding of Practices and Rare Rituals Related to Sacred Sites in Kyrgyzstan: Preparation of an Inventory and Safeguarding Measures, supported by Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, UNESCO, France
- 2017
Video Documentation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements in the Asia-Pacific Region, supported by the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO and International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), Republic of Korea
- 2015
Creating a Database on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Kyrgyzstan, supported by International Research Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (IRCI), Japan
- 2011-2013
Creating Digital Version of the “Manas, Semetey, Seitek” Epic Trilogy and Organizing School for Young Epic Tellers, supported by The Christensen Fund, U.S.A
- 2010-2012
Promoting and Transmitting Traditional Music, supported by The Christensen Fund, U.S.A
- 2005-2014
Researching and Documenting Sacred Sites, Pilgrimage Practices and Traditional Wisdom, supported by The Christensen Fund, U.S.A

Authored

- In Search of Sacredness: Pilgrimage Practices in Kyrgyzstan, Landscape Sacred Natural Sites; Sources of Biocultural Diversity, Volume 2, Issue 11, Summer 2012.
- Ancient Epic Goes Digital, The Newsletter of the International Institute for Asian Studies, No.60, Summer 2012

Developed & Directed

- National Manual on Safeguarding Pilgrimage Practices and Rituals at Sacred Sites, 2020
- Full Video Version of the Seitek Epic – the third Part of the Epic Trilogy, 2014
- Full Video Version of the Semetei Epic – the Second Part of the Epic Trilogy, 2013
- Full Video Version of the Manas Epic – the First Part of the Epic Trilogy, 2012

Contributed to publication of

- Sacred Sites of Northern Kyrgyzstan: Nature, Man, Spirituality, 2015
- Sacred Sites of the Southern Kyrgyzstan: Nature, Manas, Islam, 2013
- Blessed Land of Batken and Folk Knowledge, 2012
- Sacred sites in Osh and Folk Knowledge, 2011

Took active participation in

- 2021 International Symposium on Tugging Rituals and Games for its Sustainability organized by UNESCO ICHCAP, April 2021
- Activities of the ICH NGO Forum during COM15, December 2020
- World Forum for ICH., Jeonju-Si, Republic of Korea, organized by UNESCO ICHCAP, October 2019
- Training Course on Inventorying Elements of ICH along the Silk Road, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, organized by UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office, May 2019
- Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific, Sakai City, Osaka, Japan, organized by IRCI, November 2016
- Working group meeting on preparation of the final Nowrouz Multinational Nomination File, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, March 2015
- Conference on Nourishing the Balance in the Universe, Haridwar, India, organized by the ICCS Inc. USA, February 2015
- Conference on Nourishing the Balance in the Universe, Mysore, India, organized by the ICCS Inc. USA, March 2012