

Element Form

1. Defining the intangible cultural heritage element

- Name of the element as used:

Serai

- Other name:

Sarai

- Short and useful title of the intangible cultural heritage element (Including domain(s) of cultural heritage manifested by the element):

Practices concerning traditional craftsmanship

- Practitioners and groups concerned:

All members of society

- Geographical location and range of the intangible cultural heritage element:

All types of environments, whether urban, rural or mountainous

- Brief description of the intangible cultural heritage element (Not to exceed 200 characters):

The *serai* or the traditional lantern is one of the methods by which homes and places of residence, such as *areesh*, were illuminated. It is a vessel in which (kerosene) is placed and a crystal bulb or transparent bottle (*farsha*) is affixed to the vessel. It is supplied with a wick to absorb the kerosene from the vessel, which is then wrapped with a date so that it remains connected to the top of

the bottle. When the wick is lit, the light spreads throughout the bottle, and continues to do so as the wick absorbs the kerosene stored in the vessel.¹

2. Features of the Element:

- Concerned practitioners and performers of the intangible cultural heritage element (including name, gender, occupational category, etc.):

All members of society.

- Other participants whose work relates to the element and contributes to sustaining its practice or facilitates the performance and transmission of the element (including those who attend a performance or those who are responsible for training, supervision or sponsorships):

– Merchants who supplies the lighting apparatus and kerosene
– Manufacturers of lighting tools

- The language (s) used (in the element):

Local dialects used in local terms, nomenclature and conversations.

- Tangible elements associated with the practice of the element and its transmission, such as: instruments, equipment, costumes, spaces, and ritual tools (if any):

Kerosene – wick – glass – matches

- Other intangible elements related to the practice and transmission of the element in question (if any):

Exchange of stories and conversations among practitioners.

- Customary practices governing access to the element or any of its specific aspects

This element is practiced in accordance with societal norms and traditions.

¹ Abdullah Ali Zaid, Dibba: Crafts, Professions and Industries, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, 2010, p. 109.

- Modes of transmitting the element to others within the group:

- Holding workshops to teach skills related to the element.
- Integration of the element and heritage in school curricula and activities.
- Holding exhibitions and promoting craftspeople products.
- Including the subject of “crafts and traditional industries” to educational curricula.
- Providing future generations with experiences and skills through training and apprenticeships by practitioners of the trade.
- Promoting the element through the establishment of heritage villages and festivals held in the UAE and abroad.

- Concerned organizations if any (associations/civil society organizations, etc.):

- Heritage clubs and societies.
- Community events and activities
- Centres for crafts and traditional industries.
- General Women's Union.

3. Status of the element: its viability and sustainability

- Threats to the practicing of the element in the context of the relevant community / groups concerned:

The element is practiced without restrictions in the context of groups living in some farms and desert areas.

4. Data: restrictions, and private permissions (collectively and access)

- Group / community approval and involvement in data collection:

Narrators, informants and practitioners familiar with the element and its practices have effectively cooperated with the researchers.

- Restrictions on data access and use

There are no restrictions on the use and access of data related to the element.

- Experts and narrators (their names, position, and affiliation):

- Dates and locations of data collection:

5. Sources of information about the element (if any)

- Literature: books, articles, and others:

Abdullah Ali Zaid, Dikka: Crafts, Professions and Industries, Ministry of Culture Youth and Community Development, 2010.

- Audio-visual materials, records etc. in archives, museums, and private collections (if any):

Some satellite channels concerned with heritage have audio-visual recordings of this element.

- Documentary materials and tools in archives, museums and private collections (if any):

Magazines, books, and heritage pamphlets contain information about this element.

6. Data about the inventory process

- The person(s) who performed the classification and collection

Researcher: Mona Hamad Al Shamsi

- Date the information was entered into the inventory:

17/05/2015

- Pictures:



Date created: 17/05/2015

Date modified: 10/11/2020

Username: Mona Hamad Al Shamsi