

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

*The Christensen Fund is committed to being a learning partner alongside our grantees.
We ask that you view this report as an opportunity to be reflective about the grant and your institution as a whole.
Please limit your report to 10 pages.*

Identifying Information

Project title:

Building the Collective Memory about Outstanding Contemporary Guardians of Traditional Wisdom (June 2015 – July 2016)

Grant reference number: (this number is listed on Grant Agreement)

G-2015-06835

Legally registered name of the grantee:

Public Fund Aigine Cultural Research Center

Reporting Period (from/to):

From July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Report prepared by (name, title):

Gulnara Aitpaeva, Director
Cholponai Usabalieva-Grishchuk, Coordinator

Submission Date:

July 7, 2016

Grant Purpose and Outcomes

Please insert the requested information below, which can be found in your Grant Agreement:

Grant Purpose:

To support ongoing Aigine CRC's efforts in cultural revitalization and to underwrite a re-envisioning exercise to frame new strategies for reaching institutional and financial sustainability.

Grant Outcomes:

Strengthen commitments to pluralism, diverse identities, and locally adapted ways of life among the peoples of Kyrgyzstan through sharing and learning results of a decade of work on sacred geography of the country and associated efforts that celebrate and give voice to the spiritual, cultural, artistic, and natural heritage as well as its stewards, and through the production and dissemination of a film and a series of nation-wide events.

Main directions of further organizational development of Aigine CRC identified, its long-term vision and strategies revised and restarted.

Results/Outcomes

Please describe the progress you have made toward the Outcomes listed above (please include these Outcomes in your response). What were some of the successes? What were some of the challenges? Were there any unexpected outcomes? How did these outcomes contribute to your long term vision?

- Pursuing the goal to strengthen commitments to pluralism, diverse identities, and locally adapted ways of life among the peoples of Kyrgyzstan through sharing and learning results of a decade of work on sacred geography of the country, Aigine CRC has conducted the *Nationwide Competition on Sacred Geography – Kasiety Jer-Ene (Sacred Motherland)*.**

In December 2015, Aigine CRC organized a nationwide competition entitled, *Kasiety Jer-Ene (Sacred Motherland)*, in joint cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and its regional Department of Schools and Kut-Bilim newspaper.

In the course of its long-term research, throughout 2005-2014, Aigine CRC came to understand that sacred sites are an

integral part of cultural and natural heritage of diverse ethnic group living in Kyrgyzstan. Today, the ancient tradition of pilgrimage to the sacred sites continues to develop in a variety of forms, thus, serves an example of sustainable folk practice and resilience in adapting to modern times and conditions. Based on the concept, that traditional knowledge and values related to sacred sites have rich educational and ecological potential, Aigine CRC initiated and offered an idea of carrying out a nationwide competition on Sacred Motherland among high school students to the Regional Department of Schools under the Ministry of Education and Science.

The main idea of the competition was to awaken the interest and to attract the attention of middle/high school students and their teachers to the Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan, as well as to involve youth in the process of studying sacred sites located in their surrounding areas. Since Kyrgyzstan is home to many ethnic groups, the competition was open to representatives of all groups and selection committee accepted works written in native language of every contestant. Strategically, the competition was aimed to make a contribution into community-based education development.

The publicity campaign was excellent thanks to efforts of the Kut-Bilim newspaper that operate under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Science. Opening call for paper submission started in May and ended in November 2015. Works were submitted from all regions of Kyrgyzstan and mainly were in the four languages – Kyrgyz, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek. Both, Aigine CRC and main representative of the Regional Department of Schools were responsible for accepting the submitted works. A panel of judges consisting of nine people was formed in order to evaluate the works and select the winners. The judges were teachers of Kyrgyz, Russian, Tajik and Uzbek languages; a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science; two editors of the Kut-Bilim newspaper and Aigine CRC's staff member, Aibek Samakov. It took the judges one whole week to process all the submitted works. As a result, 78 works were considered among all, 15 of which were selected as the winners.

Sadly, quality and the level of submitted works reflect the overall level of education in the country. But most importantly, all the works were centered on sacred sites located in/nearby the participant's locale. The judges were able to select most wonderful stories that reflect the participant's personal and/or family history associated with sacred sites. Below are some examples:

Participant, Begaiym Nurlan kyzy, Naryn province:

*"My beautiful Kyrgyz land,
No other place can rival your beauty.
I admire and pay tribute to your greatness,
The beautiful, Mother Earth!
I watch the Sun – the beautiful one,
Its gentle rays keep us all warm.
And the surface of land covered by yellow leaves on an autumn day,
Is as pretty and warm as the sun on the sky."*

Participant, Uuljan Djoldosheva, Chyi province:

"I was born in a blessed Kyrgyz land. I am Kyrgyz and I'm very proud of it. We are told that a human being is like a tree, he/she needs to grow and yield fruits, and in order to grow one needs to nourish their roots... I think about my roots quite often – who/what are they? And I understand that my roots are my ancestors. My grandmother oftentimes tells us about our ancestors. Due to her stories, I know about my great-grandfather who died during the World War II. He parted this world protecting his grandchildren. Today, we pay tribute to Joldosh-ata, recite verses from Quran dedicated to his honor and use his name as our last name. My grandmother always tells us to remember our ancestors and honor them. Our family gathers together every Friday and recites Quran verses in honor of our ancestors. According to our grandmother, we ennoble ourselves by paying tribute to our ancestors. We, the representatives of the young generation, learn about the past thanks to her great stories about Manas-Ata, Almanbet-Baatyr, Aisha-Byby and others. By learning about the past, we come to understand the present and build the future."

The awards ceremony took place on 18 December 2015 at Seitek, the National Center for Children and Youth. The winner-students were invited to attend the ceremony together with their teachers. They represented different regions of the country – Uzbek schools from Osh province, Tajik school from Batken province, Russian schools from Bishkek city and Kyrgyz schools from Naryn and Yssyk-Kul provinces. The awards were presented by Kochkor-Ata sacred site guardian – Siezdbek Kalkanbaev, Ata-Beyin sacred site guardian – Bayzбек Duultaev, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science – Kalysbek Shadykanov along with several other ministry staff. Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, director of Aigine CRC, made a video presentation on Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan: The Territory of Common Values and Hope, followed by an interactive

quiz-game on “Why do certain sites become sacred?”. Quiz winners from the audience received books on sacred sites published by Aigine CRC.

The ceremony was finalized by a wonderful performance, where the beneficiaries of the projects, supported by TCF in 2011-2012, – graduates of School of Novice Manaschys and En-Belgi system – presented their impressive achievements. Through this kind of presentations, Aigine CRC also has been taking the approach to connect young representatives of different ethnicities devoted to study and preserve their traditional heritages.

2. To give voice to cultural and artistic heritage as well as its stewards, Aigine CRC has initiated a nation-wide event aimed to *safeguarding the Master’s Legacy*.

Aigine CRC holds warm memory of its long-time partner, genius musician and bearer of traditional wisdom – Nurak Abdrakhmanov. In spring 2016, Aigine CRC conducted an online contest – Invigorating Legacy of Nurak, aimed at safeguarding and cognizing the musician’s rich music legacy. The conditions to participate did not have age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, status as well as any other limitations. According to terms of the contest, each participant was to play one of Nurak Abdrakhmanov’s melodies on komuz and/or sing one of his songs, then video record it and download on any social network and share the special link of Aigine CRC. As a result, 21 people submitted their video performance; five best individual performances and one group performance were selected as winners and awarded with books and epic trilogy’s video version published by Aigine CRC. It’s worth mentioning that the 1st place was awarded to Mirlan Karybaev - contestant from Beijing, China for heartfelt and outstanding performance of Ata-Murasy (Father’s Legacy) – one of the complicated melodies of the master. It’s quite symbolic that among all the others this particular performance and melody was selected by the jury.

During his lifetime, Nurak Abdrakhmanov made it his life mission to transmit komuz playing. Based on a long-time search rooted in the traditional domain, Master Nurak developed an En-Belgi music system. It is of utmost significance to learn that his legacy is alive and recognized by young generations as well as to contribute in this process.

3. To celebrate the spiritual and cultural heritage, a film *Jaryktan Jaralghan Adam* (A Person of Light) has been produced and disseminated at a nation-wide scale.

Kultaev Alymbek-Haji was the guardian of the Sulaiman-Too sacred site in Osh. Aigine CRC began working with Alymbek-Haji back in 2005, and starting from 2009, he became the member of the Advisory Board. Alymbek-Haji has been a good friend, close associate and invaluable advisor to Aigine CRC. Alymbek-Haji was a bearer of profound wisdom. Kyrgyz traditional notions and beliefs were harmonized with Islam religious concepts in his religious and spiritual philosophy. And in our currently polarized and split society Alymbek-Haji took a courage to share that system publically. In his honor, Aigine CRC prepared and produced a documentary movie entitled *Jaryktan Jaralghan Adam*, A Person of Light. The documentary’s main goal is to remember Alymbek-Haji and to introduce to general public his adherence to Islam and unique ability to syncretize it with traditional Kyrgyz belief system, customs and tradition. We would like to draw on Alymbek-Haji’s example and emphasize that there are local intellectuals, bearers of wisdom, harmony and light living among us.

Preparation of the documentary began in February 2016 and took place in Osh, at Sulaiman-Too sacred site, and in Bishkek. Doolot Sydykov, *manaschy*, became the film’s script writer, while Yrys Okenova became the film director. Alymbek-Haji’s family members, followers and friends participated in the video shooting. Some of the Aigine CRC’s archived video materials and some video footages of Aibek Alikulov, Alymbek-Haji’s apprentice, were used in the movie.

First public presentation of the documentary and Alymbek-Haji’s commemoration took place on June 12, 2016 at the Historical and Archeological Museum of Sulaiman-Too in Osh. Immediate family members, spiritual practitioners, sacred site guardians and Osh State University students of the Theology Department attended the event. Three more presentations took place in Bishkek. In July-September, 2016 the documentary will be broadcasted on a number of state TV channels (First National TV and Radio Channel, Sanat TV and the Channel of Culture, History and Language).

Aigine CRC strongly believes that the life story of Alymbek Hadji is an excellent case of maintaining the traditions which are harmoniously embedded in modernity. Making and disseminating the film *Jaryktan Jaralghan Adam*, A Person of Light, we contribute in fostering a public understanding that the traditional knowledge and wisdom did not emerge at certain time to be fixed forever. Like other forms of human activities they should also be constantly discovered, developed and transmitted by dedicated people. It is a message of acknowledgement and respect for our Advisor as well as other current practitioners.

4. Identifying main directions of further organizational development of Aigine CRC, revising and restarting its long-term vision and strategies

Activities on search of new perspectives of Aigine CRC's development for the upcoming 5-7 years became one of the main objectives of the reporting year. The following activities conducted in 2015-2016 are directly related to addressing the abovementioned objective.

Cooperation with diverse international structures of UNESCO and working at regional and international levels as the directions of further development.

In 2011, Aigine CRC has started cooperation with the UNESCO National Commission in Kyrgyzstan by participating in regional workshops and sharing the experience on implementing projects supported by TCF. Shortly after, Aigine CRC staff members began providing voluntary consultations on enlisting the elements of Kyrgyz cultural heritage. Thus, in 2012-2015, Aigine CRC proactively participated in inscribing such elements of Kyrgyz cultural heritage as the epic trilogy "*Manas. Semetei. Seitek*", Kyrgyz yurt, and *aitysh* into the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

During the work of the 10th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee in November 2015, Aigine CRC received unanimous approval of the Committee members to be accredited under the UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage. Thus, Aigine CRC became the first NGO in Central Asia to receive accreditation under this Convention. The accreditation enables the Center to have a full right in taking part and shaping the UNESCO policies in cultural matters and receiving direct financial aid when participating in various events.

In 2015, Aigine CRC began cooperating with different international UNESCO structures. Thus, in 2015 director of Aigine CRC, Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, took part in an expert meeting held in Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia conducted by the International Research Center on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia-Pacific, IRCI, Japan. Dr. Aitpaeva's presentation sparked genuine interest of other participants of the meeting. Her talk was focused on safeguarding Kyrgyz epic trilogy, *Manas, Semetei, Seitek*, by digitizing the epic and distributing the video version among all the high schools of the country. During the work of the meeting, Kyrgyzstan was selected as the next country to host the expert's meeting. Thus, on December 8-9, 2015, IRCI together with Aigine CRC organized and hosted expert's meeting on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bishkek. Experts and culture specialists from Bangladesh, Fiji, Japan, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam took part in the meeting. During the event, they presented analysis of resources on issues of safeguarding elements of intangible cultural heritage.

In 2016, Aigine CRC started its collaboration with Traditional Knowledge Department under the auspicious of UNESCO. As a result, Siezdbek Kalkanbekov, guardian of the Kochkor-Ata sacred site, together with Aigine CRC's researcher, Aibek Samakov, participated in IPBES dialogue – Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which took place on January 11-13, 2016 in Paris, France.

In May 2016, Aigine CRC together with the International Information and Network Center of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia-Pacific under the auspicious of UNESCO, ICHCAP, South Korea, conducted a symposium Sacred and Cultural Space of Central Asia: Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Strengthening Identity in Dushanbe. The main goal pursued by Aigine CRC in initiating this symposium was to build a Central Asian network of organizations and individuals interested in safeguarding and supporting sacred space of the region. Specialists on sacred space and practitioners from Central Asian countries and Mongolia participated in the symposium. Participants discussed different types of sacred sites, from mountains to architectural monuments, as well as ways to understand the concept of sacredness and forms/ways of its manifestation. Dr. Emil Shukurov delivered a presentation on Meaning and Value of Sacred Space in Central Asia. Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva focused her talk on Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan: Diversity and Resilience of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The presentation was a summary of research projects conducted in 2005-2014 with support of TCF. As a result of the symposium's work, ICHCAP stated its readiness to support the work of organizations and experts from Central Asia on sacred sites and practices. Thus, at this stage, Aigine CRC took up its work to the Central Asian level.

Academic way of promoting biocultural diversity as an important direction of further development.

In November 2015, director of Aigine CRC, Dr. Gulnara Aitpaeva, participated in 4th International European Society for the Study of Himalayan and Central Asiatic Civilizations (SECHAS) Colloquium. The event was held in Heidelberg, Germany and was entitled Religious Revivals and Artistic Renaissance in Central Asia and the Himalayan Region – past and present. Dr. Aitpaeva's presentation was on Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan: Linking Spirituality and Art, and was based on Aigine CRC's

research results conducted in 2005-2014 within the framework of TCF projects. The talk was focused on considering the Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan as a domain of social life. This domain generates efforts and justice in society, and socially-oriented spiritual and artistic practices get developed within this domain. These practices are aimed at introducing positive changes in socio-political life in the country.

In the fall of 2015, Aigine CRC's staff member, Aibek Samakov, received his MA Degree from the Institute of Natural Resources of the Manitoba University, Canada. A seminar on Biocultural Diversity organized back in 2012 by BDC KNAU and supported by TCF, laid foundation for academic collaboration between Aigine CRC and Aibek Samakov's academic advisor, Dr. Fikret Berkes. Aibek Samakov's MA thesis is a scientific product that emerged from Aigine CRC's research on sacred sites conducted in 2005-2014 with TCF's support. The author, in his work, reviewed two models of safeguarding biocultural diversity: traditional or community based – a phenomenon of sacred sites, and contemporary or state – creating biosphere territories. The main approach of the work complies with Aigine CRC's mission on integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary practices. An ancient form of preserving and safeguarding the nature and its diversity in the form of sacred sites is based, first of all, on emotional ties of an individual with a place and on spiritual unity with certain space or time. In author's opinion, today, this approach could bring new perspectives into state schemes of environmental protection on the example of the Yssyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve. And Aibek also emphasized that while syncretizing the traditional and contemporary models of safeguarding biocultural diversity, legal status of biosphere reserve could, in its turn, foster legal protection of sacred sites. Aigine CRC strongly believes that Aibek's academic research represents one of the most effective models in activating and promoting wide range of traditional empirical materials that have been collected by many TCF grantees over a long period of time.

In May 2016, Aigine CRC in partnership with the American University in Central Asia (AUCA), French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC) and Central Asian Studies Institute (CASI) held an international scientific conference Rethinking of the 1916 Uprising in Central Asia. The year 2016 marks the centenary of the 1916 Uprising in Central Asia, which is seen as the largest and the most violent national protest against the Russian colonial rule. The workshop was held in the format of thematic sessions and discussion, which allowed to fully illuminate the various aspects of the conference theme. The meeting included a thematic concert where rare works were presented, such as poetry of Ysak Shaybekov "Kayran el" ("Suffering people", 1916), performed by the group "Marjan" and Nurak Abdrakhmanov's composition "Yrkyn" (Exodus 2009) in the performance of his apprentices. As a result, number of participants expressed their desire to organize such academic platform for the exchange of information and analysis of key historical events in the region on a regular basis. On the other hand, after the conference, Michael Hall, the regional director for the Caucasus and Central Asia at the Open Society Foundations, visited Aigine CRC with the invitation to consider applying to OSF to continue this kind of academic events.

Using Mass Media means and publications to promote traditional practices and values.

After completing in 2014 its long-term research on the Sacred Geography of Kyrgyzstan, Aigine CRC has been working on dissemination this phenomenon for a wide public through diverse mass media means and different types of publication. This work is considered as an important direction of the organizational further activities. In the reporting period, the members of Aigine's team have taken part in 9 TV programs. Also Aigine CRC published the calendar familiarizing wide public with the main rituals that are performed by pilgrims of Kyrgyzstan at sacred sites. Today, all currently existing rituals are undergoing influence of the modern era, however, many rituals continue to preserve elements of antiquity and authenticity.

Meetings with staff members and advisors to share ideas on main directions of further organizational development

There have been conducted regular meetings with advisors, former and current employees in order to discuss new ways of organization's development. Thus, in fall 2015, there was an online consultation with three advisors. Main goal of the online-meeting was to learn advisors' intentions and plans regarding thier further collaboration with Aigine CRC. All three of them, Elizabeth Araujo, Nathan Light and Chagat Almashev, confirmed willingness to continue their advisorship to Aigine CRC. In February-March 2016, Aigine CRC hold consultations with Dr. Nathan Light on preparing and developing new research ideas, while in May 2016, development of pilgrimage tours and eco-tourism concepts were thoroughly discussed with Chagat Almashev.

One of the main ways of ensuring organizational sustainability is by maintaining constant cooperation with former employees. Today, Aigine CRC's former staff members are continuing their studies and enriching their work experience in different institutions/organizations worldwide. At the same time, they keep their close partnership and cooperation with Aigine CRC up to present days. Thus, in 2015-2016, Aigine CRC carried out a number of meetings with them: in Ankara, Turkey in July 2015; in Tubingen, Germany in November 2015; in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in February 2016; in Osh, Kyrgyzstan in

June 2016.

One of the biggest meetings was held in a German city of Tübingen in November 2015 attended by six Aigine CRC team members: Aibek Samakov, Aida Alymbaeva, Aksana Ismailbekova, Baktygul Shabdanalieva-Tulebaeva, Gulmira Aldakeeva and Gulnara Aitpaeva. One of the main subjects on the agenda was the discussion of new areas and ways of organization's development and strengthening further collaboration with Aigine CRC. As a result, in the framework of this cooperation, Baktygul Shabdanalieva-Tulebaeva, current staff member and PhD student at the Anthropology and Ethnology Department of the Tübingen University, is organizing an educational tour throughout Kyrgyzstan in August 2016 for the fellow students of her host German university. Aksana Ismailbekova has offered Aigine CRC to consider an option of providing a consulting support for international organizations, working in the field of peace building and conflict prevention in order to bring a cultural perspective into their interventions. In the frame of this suggestion, the meeting with Engjellushe Morina, Project Manager of Berghof Foundation, Germany, took place in June, 2016.

Thus, main directions of further organizational development of Aigine CRC identified, its long-term strategies are revised.

Lessons Learned

Describe what you learned based on the results/outcomes you reported on above. How did you measure success? What did you learn in feedback from your community or your local partners who benefitted from the activities? Going forward, will you make any programmatic/organizational changes based on these experiences?

Organizational Diagnostics as a Way of Monitoring and Motivation for Improvement and Development

In 2015-2016, Aigine CRC needed to measure not just a progress or success of the current project, but to evaluate the organizational system completely. By this reason, at the end of 2015, the Center approached East-West Institute to perform an organizational diagnostics. In December 2015, staff members of the East-West Institute performed their evaluation. The evaluation process was carried out using methodology developed within the framework of the Co-Management Programme supported by USAID. Experts thoroughly and meticulously studied all the internal documentation and reports, analyzed administrative and financial management system, interviewed the director and staff members and conducted comprehensive consultations with Aigine CRC's accountant and administrator. As a result, evaluation experts prepared an analytical report that included number of reasonable comments and valuable recommendations.

Aigine CRC's team carefully reviewed the report and started working on the provided feedback as of February 2016. Thus, in 2016, Aigine CRC has started audit of organization's basic documents taking into account expert's recommendations that have done organizational diagnostics. Legal advisor of the International Center for not-for-profit-law (ICNL LLC) conducted the revision of Aigine CRC's Charter. Based on experts' recommendations, Aigine CRC enlisted organization's values, and today, many organizational documents are accessible online for public review.

The following concluding idea expressed by the experts, E. Ubysheva and A. Sarkisyan, confirms that Aigine CRC's general philosophy and work approach ensures sustainability of organization's development, "Aigine CRC's activity – is a contemporary trend in NGO's organizational development. Mainstream NGOs are mostly an organization of one individual or based on authoritarian management system, formal hierarchy, rigid role-based duties, have classical employment structure and stereotypical procedures. Unlike these mainstream NGOs, Aigine CRC is based on conceptual unity, employers' independence and on sharing maximum individual responsibility. Aigine CRC is a union of professionals united under common shared values, who are committed to organization's mission."

Project Stories

Please share a story from this grant which illustrates the impact for your work. How, for example, would you explain the value of this project to someone who was unfamiliar with the issues? Please use a specific example (a person, an event, a particular feedback received).

Fulfilling the Dream of a Long-time Partner and Outstanding Bearer of the Traditional Practice

In early June of 2016, the members of the Organizing Committee of the Second International Nomad's Game approached the Aigine CRC. The Committee members came having some information about our projects on *komuz* – Kyrgyz national musical instrument. Indeed, in 2012-2013, with TCF's support, Aigine CRC conducted the educational seminars for about 40 teachers of music from all seven provinces of the country. The main goal of the seminars was to teach playing *komuz* based on Nurak Abdrakhmanov's En-Belgi system.

The organizers of the Nomad's Game-2016 had the idea to gather 1000 *komuz* players for the Opening ceremony. They shared the concern that their collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism to build a *komuz* players group did not succeed during several months. They came to Aigine CRC seeking for an advice and assistance.

Aigine CRC has been maintaining connections with the participants of the projects on *komuz*. In three days we learned that a wide network of En-Belgi bearers, established by the teachers since 2013, would allow building a group of 1,000 *komuz* players.

On June 29, the Aigine CRC has signed the agreement with the Organizing Committee to set up the group of 1,000 *komuz* players, which will perform a melody Mash-Botoi by Atai Ogombaev at the Opening ceremony of the Second International Nomad's Game on 3 September 2016.

During the project years supported by TCF, Nurak Abdrakhmanov had a big dream of seeing synchronized performance of his 500 apprentices. The Master's dream will be finally fulfilled. 1,000 *komuz* players will simultaneously perform a famous Kyrgyz melody. In memory and honor of Nurak Abdrakhmanov, the group will bear the name En-Belgi and will become the biggest *komuz* band ever created in the history of traditional music.

Aigine CRC believes that all the projects implemented with support of The Christensen Fund in 2005-2016 will have sustainable continuation in countrywide, regional and international levels.

Project Photos (if applicable)

A picture is worth a 1000 words! Please feel free to attach any relevant photos from your project. Don't forget to provide us with the full names of the people pictured and/or location of the photograph.



Aibek Samakov is sharing the main findings of his master paper, Bisheh, UCA, February 2016.



One of the winners of the nationwide competition on Sacred Geography, Bishkek, December 18, 2015



Alymbek-Haji– the picture-episodes from the film *Jaryktan Jaralgan Adam, A Person of Light*.





The winner of an online contest “Invigorating Legacy of Nurak Shabdan Ajibaev, Bishkek (on the right), Bishkek, June 15,2016.



The ritual *Dem Saluu* (a folk healing method), presented in the Calendar on Rituals of Sacred Sites-2016, Nyldy-Ata Sacred Site, Talas, 2007.

Do we have your permission to share your story and/or photos with a broader audience through our website or other means? Sharing of stories or images is not required.

+ Yes. You have my permission to share the stories and/or the photos I’ve provided.

☐ *No. I would rather keep these stories and images private.*

Advancing UNDRIP and FPIC

Christensen is working to improve our own learning of how to best support, honor, respect and effectively implement rights as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), especially the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and want to learn from others’ experiences. How has this program contributed to this goal of advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities? What have you learned from implementing this project? How will you continue this work going forward?

The program has contributed to the goal of advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities through presenting and promoting excellent cases and practices of maintaining the traditional approaches which are harmoniously embedded in modernity.

Other Comments

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations that would help us improve our grantmaking practice and reporting processes?

Statement on Compliance with Grant Terms

Please refer to your signed Grant Agreement when making the following statement:

+	<i>Grantee asserts that it has complied with all of the terms and conditions specified in the Grant Agreement.</i>
+	<i>Grantee asserts that it has made all expenditures in furtherance of the stated purpose of the grant.</i>

Name, Title:	Gulnara Aitpaeva, Director Cholponai Usubalieva-Grishchuk, Coordinator
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