

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Gos' Saraz – To give offerings in the barns during the Chawmos festival

Brief Description: Gos Saraz is held for a period of two days on the 11th and 12th of December during the Chawmos festival. During these two days, community members remain busy in their barns and homes carrying out ritual purifications through the smoke of Juniper (mous/saraz) branches set on fire. The branches are initially brought to the barns by young children who are yet to be considered adults. The smoke of these burning branches is spread across the walls and roofs of houses and temples. Although ritual purification is carried out exclusively by male members of the community, females help in the proceedings. Family members distribute the meat of the sacrificed livestock amongst their relatives and neighbours.