

## **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Name of the Element:** **Espray:** The art of playing the flute

**Brief Description:** The Espray flute holds a particular significance in the Kalasha community. Flute music is an integral part of all events related to birth & marriage celebrations, carnivals, religious ceremonies, and even rituals of death. It is believed that young shepherds should begin to play the flute from early childhood so that by the time they grow up the flute music will have filtered through their hands and fingers into the soul, becoming a part of their very existence.

Furthermore, according to tradition, this internalized flute music is passed on from generation to generation through indigenous tunes, melodies, and songs without any intervention of formal training. Each flute player carves out his own instrument by boring a rosewood or walnut stick followed by a smoothing process by inserting a hot iron rod into the hollowed instrument. The flute, a fipple, and is generally between 12 to 14 inches long with five holes and can only play folk tunes. In Kalasha valleys, both men and women play the flute but during the festival of corn harvest called Ushaw, in September, only women give public performances to celebrate the event.