

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Sharakandali: The skill of making traditional footwear used to adorn the feet of the deceased at the time of funerals.

Brief Description: Sharakandali is traditional footwear of the Kalasha community used to adorn the feet of the deceased at the time of the funerals. The footwear comes in different style for men and women. The one for the women is simpler in design than the men's and is called 'Kalun'.

The footwear is made from goat and cow skin. First the skins are unhaired and degreased. Then the skin is tanned, a process of treating skins and hides to produce leather. After the tanning, preservatives are added to it to avoid bacterial damage. It is then dyed and cut according to the shape and size.

The tools used in the making of the footwear are knives, scissors, strings, needles, and wood hammer. A specific tool called 'gonpak' is used to shape the leather into a shoe. Colours are used to dye the leather.

In previous times it was expensive to buy these shoes, so the community used to barter on them. For men's shoes, a goat and its baby were exchanged. Whereas for the women's shoes, a sheep and its baby were exchanged.