Appendix C: Sample Questionnaire

This questionnaire has been divided into two sections. The questions in Section A are general questions and were put to the Yao, Lisaw and Ladakhi peoples. The questions in Section B are tribe specific and were asked of the relevant people.

Section A

1. Which is your original homeland?
2. What are the stages of your migration?
3. What language/dialect do you speak?
4. Can you narrate some legends and stories about yourselves?
5. In your travels you must have come across many different types of people, their customs, rituals and beliefs. Did you try to retain your individuality?
6. What is the reason for your choosing the materials for clothing and ornaments?
7. What is the process for the preparation of dyes?
8. Are these dyes fast or some other procedure has to be evolved?
9. What are the names of all the articles of clothing, ornaments and musical instruments that you use?
10. Is there any difference between the costume for the old and the young? And why?
11. To what extent are the traditional costumes being used by the younger tribespeople?
12. What are the changes which are being brought about?
13. Is there any reason for these changes?
14. Is there any difference between the costumes of daily wear and those worn for ritual and festive occasions?
15. Are the rituals and old observances changing?
16. Why are they changing?
17. Do you miss the old lifestyle?
18. Please explain the technique of making garments, ornaments and musical instruments, their materials, process of preparing them and so on.
19. Do you feel that your way of life is changing?
20. Do you like the coming of the tourists to your settlements?
21. Do you like to watch the television and listen to disco music etc?
22. Do you like to wear western style of dress?
23. Are you happy that the young people are taking to different professions?
24. Do you make any effort to explain the significance of your old rituals and ceremonies etc. to the young people?
25. Can you suggest any remedial actions so that your lifestyle and belief system does not change significantly?

Section B

1. What is the most harmful and beneficial spirit of the Yao?
2. What happens if a Yao boy does not participate in the ordination ceremony of “Kwa tang”?
3. Is it necessary that all Yao women must know how to embroider?
4. What is the significance of the five ancient designs like Hou Kouang Country, Hunter’s Blind, Gibbon, Thorn of the Full Blown Flower, and Finishing Touch?
5. The San Yuan Sword is an important Yao symbol and related to the sword of the Toist. Why is this symbol only used in ornaments and not in embroidery?
6. What is the most important symbol for the Yao?
7. Why do the Yao not use bright colours for their clothes?
8. What is the specific name of the tree in the Yao story of the birth of music that the Yao used to make the musical instruments?
9. What is the reason for the Yao choosing to make the reed of the shawm from the cocoon of the tamarind tree instead of woods and not from other woods?
10. What is the main function of the Yao musical instruments like Yat, Yo, Thong-law, and Chao-chery?
11. Why do the Yao not play music in daily life?
12. The Yao lived in Laos for a period of time before entering into Thailand. Is there any influence from the Laos Yao?

**The Lisaw**

1. Why do the Lisaw children from the age of about 10 to puberty sleep on the guest platforms instead of a room in the Lisaw house?
2. Why does the Lisaw priest drop an Indian coin into a pond of water during the childbirth rituals?
3. Why do the spirits of the Lisaw seem to be more aggressive than the Yao?
4. What is the main reason for the Lisaw belief that they are the first human race in the world?
5. Why do the Lisaw not embroider their clothes?
6. Why do the Lisaw women like to add silver ornament items as much as they can when they go for a festive occasion?
7. Why do the Lisaw pay more attention to the Lisaw New Year than the other functions like wedding, funeral etc.?
8. What is the significance of the Lisaw New Year?
9. The drum is said to be the most important musical instrument of the ethnic groups worldwide. Why do the Lisaw not have any drum?
10. The Lisaw also migrated from the southwest of Yunnan province in China. Why do the percussion instruments, which are influenced from the Chinese such as the gong, a pair of cymbals, never appear in the Lisaw musical culture?

11. Why do the Lisaw not form a musical ensemble? And what is the main reason?

12. Before entering Thailand the Lisaw lived in Burma (Myanmar) for a period of time. Is there any influence from Burma?

The Ladakhis

1. What is the reason why the headgear “Perak” of the Ladakhi women is shaped like a serpent?

2. What is the significance of the butterfly symbol on the necklaces of Ladakhi women? Is there any influence?

3. The Ladakhi music is divided into two categories: the ritual and secular music. What are the main reasons for such a division?

4. Can the lama plays secular music and opposingly can the secular people play ritual music?

5. Most of the wind instruments of the Ladakhis are tuned at high pitches. Why does the Ragtum, the long telescope like horn used in ritual music have a very low pitch?

6. What is the main function of the musical instruments used in ritual music like Surna, Ragtum, Kangling, Nga, Dramaru, and Bookuchain?

7. Today the young Ladakhis hardly wear their traditional costumes. Do you think that the traditional costumes will survive?

8. What steps do you propose should be taken to preserve the old costumes, rituals and so on?