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Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

**Twenty-Seventh Session
Geneva, March 24 to April 4, 2014**

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WIPO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC RESOURCES WEBSITE

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1.   At its Twentieth Session, held from February 14 to 22, 2012, the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the IGC") invited the Secretariat to produce an information document briefly describing the resources available on the WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources website ("the WIPO TK website"), as a means to support and enhance the participation of observers in its work[1]. This decision was among several decisions taken following discussion of a "Draft Study on the Participation of Observers in the Work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore: Executive Summary" (see document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/7).

2.   Pursuant to that decision, a brief description of the available resources is attached as an Annex. Such description is intended to assist IGC participants, particularly observers and newcomers, to make better use of already available materials on the WIPO TK website.

3.   At its Twentieth Session, the IGC also "requested the Secretariat to improve the accessibility of the WIPO website devoted to traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions." Accordingly, the WIPO TK website has been re-structured with a view to improving its accessibility, as well as part of a general revision of the WIPO website. The description of the available resources as referred to in paragraph 2 above reflects the changes made to the WIPO TK website.

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[1] See report of the Twentieth Session (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/10), paragraph 801 (f).

4.   In addition, the IGC, at its Twentieth Session, took note that a distinct webpage on the WIPO TK website is dedicated to comments, proposals, submissions and papers from observers, including drafting proposals on IGC negotiating texts and other working documents for consideration by Member States. The IGC requested the Secretariat to encourage observers to contribute to this observers' comments webpage and to draw the attention of Member States to these comments before each session of the IGC[2]. The Secretariat is accordingly, through several means, encouraging observers to contribute comments and other materials to the webpage (submissions may be sent by accredited observers to the Secretariat at grtkf@wipo.int) and hereby draws to the attention of the Member States that the page is available at http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/ngo/index.html.

5.   The IGC is invited to take note of this document and the Annex to it.

[Annex follows]

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[2] See report of the Twentieth Session (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/10), paragraph 801 (f).

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WIPO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS AND GENETIC RESOURCES WEBSITE AND

The present Annex presents the resources available on the WIPO TK website[1]. It reflects the changes that have been introduced as a result of the most recent restructuring of the WIPO website.

The entry to the WIPO TK website (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/) has been modified: open the http://www.wipo.int/portal/en/ page; at the bottom of the page and under "Explore WIPO", click on "IP & Other Policy Topics"; and in the page http://www.wipo.int/policy/en/index.html#topics, click on "Traditional Knowledge" in the middle of the page.

Major changes concern the structure of the landing page of the WIPO TK website. Six main entries have been created to lead to different subject matters:

- "Traditional Knowledge" as a main portal to resources related to the "Intergovernmental Committee" (IGC) (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/), including the "Indigenous Portal (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/);

- "News" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/);

- Entries for each thematic issue: "Traditional Knowledge" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/tk/), "Traditional Cultural Expressions" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/) and "Genetic Resources" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/genetic/);

- Entries for "Technical Assistance and Capacity Building";

- "Resources" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/publications.html).

Here are the main available resources listed by subject matter.

The IGC

A distinct "IGC webpage" (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/index.html) constitutes the most important gateway to detailed information for IGC participants, including observers.

A special page containing an "**IGC Preparation Kit**" has been created in order to help participants in the IGC to prepare for each session of the IGC with various shortcuts, including to the registration form: (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/preparation/index.html).

The IGC webpage offers direct links to, *inter alia*:

- the negotiating mandate of the IGC for 2014-2015: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/igc/pdf/igc_mandate_1415.pdf;

- the IGC work program for 2014 as decided by the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO that includes the most recent IGC updated schedule for 2014: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/igc/pdf/igc_schedule_2014.pdf;

- a background brief on the IGC: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/resources/pdf/tk_brief2.pdf.

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[1] The reader will find a list of acronyms at the end of the present Annex.

All IGC-related documentation can be retrieved from the IGC webpage:

- the "negotiating texts":
    - on TCEs: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=226474;

    - on TK: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=238182;

    - on GRs: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=230222.

- the complete list of available documents related to the Twenty-Seventh Session of the IGC: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=32089;

- the complete lists of the IGC documents since the establishment of the IGC in October 2000: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/topic.jsp?group_id=110.

The negotiations within the IGC have been preceded by a consultation process regarding Draft provisions for the protection of TCEs and TK against misappropriation and misuse that was commissioned by the IGC at its sixth Session in March 2004. The history of this process is archived on: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/draft_provisions.html#consultations.

Other selected IGC documents and resources of particular and continuing importance in the IGC work are also available:

- List of key issues relating to the protection of TCEs and relating to the protection of TK: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/issues.html;

- Gap analyses on the protection of TCEs and the protection of TK: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/gap-analyses.html;

- Glossary on Key Terms Related to IP and GRs, TK and TCEs: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/glossary.html.

The IGC webpage offers practical guidelines on how to make interventions at the IGC: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/igc/pdf/intervention.pdf.

A specific web page relating to the **observers' participation in the IGC** is available on:

http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/participation.html.

It includes links to the following:

- the accreditation process and the list of the accredited organizations;

- The WIPO Voluntary Fund that facilitates the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the IGC, including the rules of the Fund and the application form;

- the panels of representatives of indigenous and local communities, comprising presentations made by members of the panel: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/panels.html;

- a distinct webpage devoted to proposals, submissions and papers of observers: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/ngo/index.html;

- a link to the draft study on observer participation in the work of the IGC (document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/20/7): http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/doc_details.jsp?doc_id=196197;

  (The decisions taken by the IGC in this regard are available at http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_20/wipo_grtkf_ic_20_ref_decisions.pdf and http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_21/wipo_grtkf_ic_21_ref_decisions.pdf);
  an information document regarding six suggestions made by the WIPO Indigenous Caucus (information document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/22/INF/10) is available on : http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_22/wipo_grtkf_ic_22_inf_10.pdf)

- a practical guide for observers, including available facilities for accredited organizations representing indigenous and local communities' representatives: http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/igc/pdf/observers_practical_guide.pdf.

Indigenous portal

A distinct "Indigenous Portal" has been created at: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/. This is part of the WIPO Secretariat's effort to improve access to available information for and relating specifically to indigenous peoples and local communities. It offers links to relevant WIPO resources, information on accreditation to, and participation in, the IGC process and provides access to external links of interest to indigenous peoples and local communities.

Resources

Answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" can be found on
http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/faqs.html.

A glossary of key terms related to IP and GRs, TK and TCEs is available on
http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/glossary.html.

More detailed background resources regarding TK, TCEs and GRs, are all gathered on
http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/.

They relate to:

- technical assistance and capacity building documentation, including:

  o the WIPO Cultural Documentation and IP Management Training Program (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/training.html);

  o IP management guides for different fields;

  o TK Documentation (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/tkdocumentation.html);

- databases:

  o laws and legislative measures on TK, TCEs and GRs (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/legal_texts/);
  o biodiversity-related ABS agreements (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/databases/contracts/);
  o codes, guidelines and practices relating to the recording, digitization and dissemination of TCEs

(http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/databases/creative_heritage/);
- o list of online databases/registries of TK and GRs
  (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/db_registry.html);

- publications and studies.

All the publications and studies are directly retrievable from
http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/publications.html. They include general information,
available background briefs, as well as documentation relating to the protection of TK and
TCEs, ABS and disclosure requirements, IP management and customary law.

Here are some publications that cover TK, TCEs and GRs:

- WIPO Report on Fact-Finding Missions on IP and TK (1998-1999):
  http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/tk/768/wipo_pub_768.pdf.

- An Overview on IP and GRs, TK and TCEs:
  http://www.wipo.int/freepublications/en/tk/933/wipo_pub_933.pdf.

- Background Brief on IP and TK:
  http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/resources/pdf/tk_brief1.pdf.

- Customary Law and IP:
  http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/customary_law/index.html.

Some of the publications or web pages are specific to one of the three items. The following is a
small selection thereof:

- on TCEs protection issues:

  - o Concise description of the issues involved: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/.

  - o Minding Culture: Case Studies on IP and TCEs:
    http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/tk/781/wipo_pub_781.pdf.

  - o Consolidated Analysis of the Legal Protection of TCEs:
    http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/tk/785/wipo_pub_785.pdf.

  - o Legislative texts relevant to TCEs:
    http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/legal_texts/index_ef.jsp.

  - o Cultural Documentation Database of existing codes, guidelines and practices:
    http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/databases/creative_heritage/index.html.

- on TK protection issues:

  - o Concise description of the issues involved: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/tk/.

  - o WIPO TK Documentation Toolkit:
    http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/tkdocumentation.html.

- o Technical Study on Disclosure Requirements in Patent Systems related to GRs and TK:
  http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/tk/786/wipo_pub_786.pdf.

- o Legislative texts relevant to TK:
  http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/legal_texts/index.jsp

- on relevant issues in relation to GRs:

  - o Concise description of the issues involved: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/genetic/.

  - o Technical Study on Disclosure Requirements in Patent Systems related to GRs and TK:
    http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/tk/786/wipo_pub_786.pdf.

  - o Draft Intellectual Property Guidelines for Access to Genetic Resources and Equitable Sharing of the Benefit arising from their Utilization:
    http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/resources/pdf/draft_guidelines_feb_2013.pdf.

  - o Legislative texts relevant to GRs:
    http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/legal_texts/index_gr.jsp.

  - o Database of biodiversity-related access and benefit-sharing agreements:
    http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/databases/contracts/index.html.

News

Users of the WIPO TK website can retrieve relevant news through its homepage: http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/, including archives (http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/news/).

Any interested person can subscribe to e-newsletters and updates to receive general information concerning TK-related developments and events, by sending an email to grtkf@wipo.int.

Acronyms used in this document:

ABS:	Access and Benefit Sharing
GRs:	Genetic Resources
IGC:	Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions
IGC 1, 2…:	First Session of the IGC, Second Session of the IGC
IP:	Intellectual Property
TCEs:	Traditional Cultural Expressions
TK:	Traditional Knowledge
WIPO TK website:	WIPO Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions, and Genetic Resources website

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