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ANNEXURE 1

DRAFT IKS BILL SUMMARY (GOYVAERTS, LETSOALO, JUNE 2000) NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF)

Short definition of Indigenous knowledge (IK)

Indigenous knowledge (IK) means productions, including works and technologies, both tangible and intangible, consisting of characteristic elements of the traditional artistic heritage developed and maintained by a community of South Africa or individuals reflecting the traditional artistic expectations of such a community.

Characteristics of IK

Every element of IK has traditional owners, who may be the whole community, a particular family or clan, an association or society, or individuals who have been specially taught or initiated to be custodians. The traditional ownership of IK must be determined in accordance with traditional communities' own customs, laws and practices.

Implementing structures

Regulatory authorities convened by a chairperson as appointed by the minister

- Duties include the performance of all acts and other things that a juristic person may perform by law or do subject to the provisions of this act.
- The objects are:



To coordinate and advise on IK

• To promote IK and regulate liaison between IK in the interest of the public

- To conduct and coordinate research on he protection of IK
- To determine strategic policy with regard to Intellectual Property Right
 Protection (IPRP) and IK

• To solicit advise for the promotion and protection of IK from the general public in the form of competitions

- To promote mass participation
- To develop a directory of inventors
- To establish a tariff of fees payable for authorization of utilization of technologies

• To protect the vested IP of individuals, strengthening of research, linkage to provincial structures and government small business support initiatives and the development of a suitable approach to the management of information and data assembled with assistance by community partners.

- Funded by the minister
- Income: funds generated by collection of tariffs and fines
- Special committees established by the Authority to assist with any function deemed necessary
- Appointment of experts
- Collective community administration agencies
 - Defend economic right stipulated in the act on behalf of the community
 - Require state authorization
 - Disseminate information to members and mandatories

Establishment of Directorate of Indigenous Knowledges

Headed by a Registrar



- Functions: registration, deposit, supervision and inspection
- Publish periodical bulletins on IK

Regulations

Minister may make regulations after consultation with the Regulatory Authority to prescribe the conditions of granting protection if community administration is inadequate. The Regulatory Authority may issue guidelines and advise with regard to IK protection specifically to:

- Researchers and scholarly institutions:
 - Comprehensive inventories of IK must e provided to communities

 All elements of IK must be returned to the rightful owner or agreements for shared custody, use and interpretation of IK must be obtained

Offers for the donation or sale of elements of IK can only be considered in consultation with traditional owners

• When studying undescribed species of plants, animals and microorganisms or naturally occurring pharmaceuticals prior consent of traditional owners must be sought and documented

- Business and industry concerning:
 - No incentives may be offered to individuals to claim IK in violation of community trust and traditional laws

No scholars or scientists may be employed to acquire and record IK in violation of these guidelines

Offences and penalties

- Any person who knowingly contravenes the act
- Convictions liable to a fine equal to three times the value of the gain derived from IK or imprisonment not exceeding 20 years jail
- A magistrate can impose an additional fine



Appointment of inspectors

Transitional procedures

 Current utilization must apply for authorization from the Regulatory Authority within six months

ADDENDA

Forms of Intellectual Property Right Protection (IPRP)

Patents:

- Must be filed, requires payment for filing
- Criteria: inventive step, novel, commercial use
- Protection for sole commercial exploitation valid for 20 25 years

Copyright:

- Not necessarily filed
- Criteria: original work by an artisan including books, paintings, works
 of art, etc.
- Not to be copied without explicit permission of the artisan
- Protection valid for 50 100 years
- Trademark:
 - Must be filed
 - Criteria: original and not part of a language
 - Extends the sole right to sell products or services under the trademark
 - Renewable ownership against payment

Please note the limitations, the time spans of protection and regulations of the above IPRP systems.



The protection of knowledge *per* se does not contribute to welfare; on the contrary it often costs money. It is the successful commercial exploitation of such that may contribute to welfare. Most IK *per* se will not qualify for a patent as it may not be an invention, or it may be difficult to identify the inventor, or it may be published before either orally or written.

- Does the bill only cover tangibles as current works are protected under the copyright act?
- The bill is proposed to act retroactively: "return to its rightful owners": is this possible?
- Some IK only developed in interaction or after exchange of knowledge with other cultures. How far back will the bill retro-act? How long will such a process of identification of IK take? Will it hinder exploitation and income generation?
- Is this a new form of IPRP or are IK being covered under the existing IPR with modifications? What are the rights enjoyed e.g. filing requirements, life-span of protection etc.
- Under existing IPRP, the owner of the IPR determines the amount of utilization of the IPR.
- Much IK is in the custody of many communities and individuals crossing cultural, tribal and country boundaries. How is it possible to determine ownership of such communal goods and within South Africa's borders?
- The promotion of exploitation and economic gain from IK and their improvement in view of the cost of protection and the strong legislation concerning protection and illegitimate exploitation (regulations)
- · The bill only covers undescribed species?
- How does the bill conform to the international agreements under WIPO?
- How does the bill relate to the convention on biological diversity that
 specifies ownership of biodiversity to a country?
- How does the bill allow for protection of IK originating from other countries?



The Rooibos Tea Production Cycle



1) Rooibos tea is only found in the beautiful Cedarberg area of the Cape, where the climate is ideal for growing this unique tea.



2) The Rooibos tea plant is hard seeded by nature and the seeds are scarified to increase their germinating potential before being sowed.



3) During February to March, the tiny seeds are sowed in well prepared seedbeds. Between June and July, the plants which have by then reached a height of 10-15cm, are planted out into plantations.



4) The producer can harvest his first Rooibos tea after one and a half years, and thereafter the plant is harvested every year by cutting off the branches 35cm above the ground.



5) The sheaves are then cut by a cutting machine to uniform length of 5mm.



6) The tea cutting are then transported to the bruiser. This rolling process ensures that the important chemical reaction which develops the characteristic color and flavor of the tea can take place.



7) After watering and airing the tea is left to "sweat" in heaps. During this time the tea obtains its typical reddish brown color and develops its sweet flavor.



8) After the sweating process has been completed the sheaves is spread out to dry in the sun.





9) When dry, collection starts

10) The finished product is delivered to the Rooibos Tea Board, where the tea is sorted and graded according to cutting length, color, flavor and taste.



11) After sifting the tea is purified by steam pasteurization after which it is dried over hot air beds



12) Quality and bacteriological control is maintained throughout.





packaged

13) The dried tea is weight and 14) Packers then buy from the Rooibos Tea Board



The Rooibos Tea is packaged by various packers in a variety of brands, either in tea bags or as leaf tea.

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