



**Convention on
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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL
WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND
RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Montreal, 31 October-4 November 2011

**COMPILATION OF VIEWS ON TASK 15 OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON
ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision X/43, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the consideration of participants in the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, a submission provided to the Secretariat regarding task 15 in the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, to assist the deliberations of the Working Group on how this task can be taken forward in both domestic and international contexts.

2. The submission has been reproduced in the form and language in which they were provided to the Secretariat.

* Reissued to provide full submissions.

SUBMISSIONS

Submission from Parties

Australia

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION 2011-065 & 2010-210:
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS:

NOTE: No consultation with state and territory governments or Indigenous groups occurred due to the tight deadline for responding to this notification. All information provided below has been drawn from Australian Government agency inputs only.

X/43 MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Revised Multi-year Programme of Work: Task 15 – Repatriation of Information

Task 15. *The Ad Hoc Working Group to develop guidelines that would facilitate repatriation of information, including cultural property, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to facilitate the recovery of traditional knowledge of biological diversity), in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention (refer Decision X/43, paragraph 6 and annexed terms of reference);*

Also in decision X/43, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to compile and analyse submissions from Parties and other relevant organizations on national and international approaches for repatriation relevant to task 15 to assist the Working Group in considering how this task can be taken forward in both domestic and international contexts. In light of this, Parties and other relevant organizations are invited to provide information on:

- (a) **National and international approaches, including best practices for repatriation relevant to task 15 (Element 3. Traditional cultural practices for conservation and sustainable use;**

Return of Indigenous Cultural Property (RICP) Program

The Return of Indigenous Cultural Property (RICP) Program aims to return Indigenous ancestral remains and secret sacred objects held in major government-funded museums to their communities of origin where possible and when requested. The program supports Australia's major government-funded museums to:

- identify the origins of all ancestral remains and secret sacred objects held by museums where possible;
- notify communities of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects held in museums;
- appropriately store ancestral remains and secret sacred objects if this is requested by communities; and
- arrange for repatriation where and when it is requested.

Through the program, the Australian Government, state and territory governments and the museums sector collaborate to resolve issues relating to Australian collections of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects. The RICP Program is overseen by a Management Committee of museum and Indigenous

representatives from each state, the Northern Territory and Museums Australia. The Committee is chaired by a representative of DSEWPC.

See <http://www.arts.gov.au/indigenous/return> for more information.

International Repatriation Program

The International Repatriation Program facilitates the return of Indigenous human remains held in overseas collections to their communities of origin. Typical activities that may be funded by this program include:

- research to establish the origins (provenance) of human remains;
- research to establish inventories of overseas collections of Indigenous human remains;
- consultations with traditional custodians on their wishes in relation to repatriation;
- the return of human remains to communities of origin;
- care and management of remains that cannot be returned to their communities of origin; and
- assistance for community following the return of their ancestral remains eg site preparation, ceremonies, reburials etc

Over 1000 remains have been returned to Australia since 2000. It is understood that there are currently around 900 Indigenous Australian remains held in overseas collections, most being held in the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France and the United States of America. FaHCSIA has established relationships with these countries and is developing relationships with a number of other European countries in order to progress the repatriation of Indigenous remains. See <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/repatriation/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

European Union and its Member States

The EU and its Member States is pleased to share with the Secretariat views on the below elements in response to CBD Notification 2010-210 on “the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions consistent with relevant decisions of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”:

Task 15 – Repatriation of Information

The EU and its Member States are of the view that repatriation should not impede continued use of the information in the Party that decides to repatriate it. At the same time, the EU and its Member States acknowledge and are supportive of the fact that repatriation can be an important strategy to revitalise traditional knowledge (TK) among a group of indigenous and local communities (ILC) where it possibly has been lost.

The EU and its Member States believe that future work on task 15 requires cooperation with UNESCO and other relevant organisations in order to avoid duplication and enhance synergies and respect the work of these organisations.

In the development of guidelines that would facilitate repatriation of information, a distinction should be made between published and unpublished information.

SWEDEN

Task 15 – Repatriation of Information

Also in decision X/43, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to compile and analyse submissions from Parties and other relevant organizations on national and international approaches for

repatriation relevant to task 15 to assist the Working Group in considering how this task can be taken forward in both domestic and international contexts. In light of this, Parties and other relevant organizations are invited to provide information on:

(h) National and international approaches, including best practices for repatriation relevant to task 15ii, in accordance with Article

The work in Sweden related to repatriation of information has focused on revitalizing in situ of traditional knowledge, as it is our conclusion that this is the way in which traditional knowledge, which has been devalued and ignored and hence partially lost, can be most effectively restored in the area and among the groups of origin of the knowledge. Revitalizing thus constitutes an effective means of repatriation of information.

Consequently, the Swedish government has since the beginning of 2006 supported the development of a Swedish National Programme on Local and Traditional Knowledge related to Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Naptek). Naptek and the Swedish Sami Parliament have jointly developed an initiative on the documentation and revitalization of Sami traditional knowledge. As part of this initiative, the Sami Parliament and Naptek have co-organised four symposia and seminars, supported 14 pilot projects for the development of methods for documentation of different aspects of Sami traditional knowledge related to biodiversity, and presented the results of the collaboration at five conferences, symposia and meetings. Based on this work, the Sami Parliament has developed a policy document and a strategy for revitalization of Sami Traditional Knowledge. Moreover, the Sami Parliament, as part of its implementation of the Sami Environmental Program Eallinbiras, has developed pilot projects for reindeer herding to be able to adapt to climate and use changes. Traditional knowledge forms an integral part of these projects.

Naptek has also supported the documentation and revitalization of traditional knowledge in Sweden at large, and has so far organized or co-organised some 40 seminars, conferences and workshops and published some 70 publications.
