



# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON NETWORKING  
AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL  
FOCAL POINTS AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN REGION

Quito, 14-16 December 2006

## REPORT OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. *Background*

1. In paragraph 28 of decision VI/10, the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting requested the Executive Secretary to establish a technical expert group to develop the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on issues related to Article 8(j) and related provisions, in accordance with task 8 of the programme of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision V/16.

2. In paragraph 24 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and Governments, and, as appropriate, international organizations to encourage and support the development of communication mechanisms, such as the Indigenous Biodiversity Information Network (IBIN), among indigenous and local communities in response to their need for better understanding of the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and for supporting discussions on guidelines, priorities, timelines and the implementation of the thematic programmes of the Convention.

3. Other decisions relevant to the development of an indigenous and local community thematic focal point, include paragraph 10 of decision VI/19, which “[i]nvites indigenous people's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations to include communication, education and public awareness in their relevant activities and to support the global initiative on education and public awareness according to the conditions established in the annex to the present decision”, and paragraph 5 of decision VI/18, which “[u]rges the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with existing international networks of indigenous and local communities and, as appropriate, national focal points, to assist in the further development of communication networks for use by these communities, with an initial emphasis on information-sharing formats, protocols and standards, having regard to ethical issues pertaining to traditional knowledge. These networks would not be used to exchange or disclose traditional knowledge.”

\* Previously issued as UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/TK-CHM/1/3 of 11 March 2003

4. Pursuant to the above-mentioned decisions, the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism was held at the Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (CFCE), in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 24 to 26 February 2003.

### ***B. Attendance***

5. Participants in the meeting were selected from among experts nominated by Governments and indigenous and local community organizations from each geographic region with a view to achieving a balanced regional distribution. In addition, representatives of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other stakeholders, were invited to participate.

6. The meeting was attended by experts from the following Governments: Bolivia, Cameroon, Canada, Palau, Spain and United States of America.

7. An observer from Austria also participated.

8. The following experts from indigenous and local community organizations were represented: Asociación ANDES, Asociación Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qollasuyu, Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazonica, Coordinadora Mapuche de Neuquén, Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Hudson Bay Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Management Systems Project, Indigenous Information Network, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Gonzalo Oviedo – Consultant, Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON), Tulalip Tribes of Washington, Western Australian Aboriginal Native Title Working Group.

9. Representatives of the following intergovernmental, indigenous and local community organizations and non-governmental organizations also participated in the meeting: Global Development Gateway Foundation—World Bank, Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de America Latina y el Caribe (Fondo Indígena).

10. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented by observers.

11. The full list of participants is contained in annex II below.

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

12. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 24 February 2003, by Dr. Maria Ripa de Marconi, representing the Government of Bolivia. In her opening statement, Dr. Maria Ripa de Marconi welcomed the participants to the meeting and stressed the importance of the development of indigenous and local communities communication networks, particularly within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. Mr. Victor Navalpotro Laina, on behalf of the Government of Spain, welcomed participants to the meeting and spoke on Spain's support for indigenous and local communities, especially in light of this meeting. Mr. Navalpotro Laina also stressed Spain's support for the development of communication networks for the use by indigenous and local communities.

14. The Secretariat welcomed the participants and expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Bolivia, Canada and Spain for their financial support, which had enabled the meeting to take place. The Secretariat also thanked the Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española for their assistance in support of the meeting.

15. Dr. Maria Ripa de Marconi invited the Bolivian indigenous representatives to perform a traditional welcoming ceremony and thanked the original inhabitants of the area, the Aymaras and the Quechuas, and the indigenous peoples of the area, the Arawaks, the Guarani and the Chiquitos.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of Officers***

16. At the first session of the meeting, on 24 February 2003, Dr. Maria Ripa de Marconi was elected to serve as Chair and Ms Lucy Mullenkei, representing indigenous and local communities, was elected to serve as Vice Chair..

### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

17. The meeting adopted the revised agenda (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/TK-CHM/1/1/Rev.1), which has been prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of decisions VI/10 and VI/18 of the Conference of the Parties:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1. Election of officers;
  - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Case-studies (examples of networks):
  - 3.1. Nunavut model;
  - 3.2. Balkanu model;
  - 3.3. Tulalip Tribes of Washington model.
4. Identification of the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism on issues related to Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision VI/10, para. 28).
5. Development and establishment of communication mechanisms (decisions VI/10, para. 24, and VI/18, para. 5):
  - 5.1. Identification of existing communication networks (local, national and regional) and potential relationship with emerging global networks;
  - 5.2. Establishment of focal points and relationship of focal points with networks;
  - 5.3. Definition of regions for communication networks.
6. Technical discussion on the development of communication networks:
  - 6.1. Logical (Structure);

- 6.2. Physical (Nuts and bolts);
- 6.3. Human (Main actors).
7. Other relevant items:
  - 7.1. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report and recommendations.
9. Closure of the meeting.

### **2.3. Organization of work**

18. At its first session, on 24 February 2003, the Technical Expert Group adopted the proposed organization of work as contained in annex II to the annotated agenda to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/TK-CHM/1/1/Add.1), which provided for the meeting to be conducted entirely in plenary session, on the understanding that contact groups or drafting groups could be set up as the need arose, in order to further develop the discussions conducted in plenary on specific issues and present the plenary with draft recommendations for its consideration.

19. The meeting was conducted on the basis of two sessions per day with simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### **ITEM 3. CASE-STUDIES (EXAMPLES OF NETWORKS)**

20. The Technical Expert Group took up agenda item 3 at its 1st meeting, on 24 February 2003. Under this item, the Secretariat invited members from a number of existing communication networks, particularly networks serving indigenous and local communities, to give a presentation on the services provided by their networks, particularly in the context of facilitating dialogue among interested stakeholders. The Technical Expert Group heard presentations from Ms. Miriam Fleming, representative of Sanikiluaq Environmental Committee, on the Hudson Bay Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Management Systems project, Mr. Sebastian Jake, representative of Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, on the Cape York Digital Network (CYDN), and Mr. Preston Hardison, representative of Tulalip Tribes of Washington, on the Tulalip Cultural Stories Project.

21. Ms. Fleming explained that in the early 1990s, a three year study was undertaken by two non-governmental organizations and the community government of Sanikiluaq in response to concerns expressed in both southern and northern Canada about the cumulative impact that several proposed hydroelectric projects would have on the natural environment and the indigenous inhabitants of Hudson and James Bays. In 1997, the study was followed by the publication of *Voices from the Bay: The Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay Bioregion*. The aim of the study were: to make known the indigenous ecological knowledge of Hudson Bay and James Bay inhabitants with respect to their natural and cultural environments; to support policy and decision-making processes which incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in their deliberation and implementation; and to advance global knowledge systems by combining traditional ecological knowledge with scientific data to educate and inform stakeholders on the dynamics of a particular ecosystem. The study's recommended methodology offers practitioners many potential benefits and strengths. For example, the semi-directed workshop/meeting format has the following advantages: small groups of people can hold focused discussions on topical areas of interest; participants have the opportunity to contribute and to learn from each other; it can be used to document indigenous knowledge in cross-cultural settings and over large geographical areas; and indigenous knowledge holders find meetings more interesting than interviews as a result of the interaction and exchange of information that occurs within the group. Another strength of

the study is the potential for traditional ecological knowledge to complement scientific data. For instance, indicators could be developed and baseline information collected for monitoring changes in ecosystems, which have not been fully measured by Western science, the Hudson Bay ecosystem being a case in point. Similar to other systems, however, traditional ecological knowledge can be further refined. Possible improvements include: more effectively communicating the traditional-ecological-knowledge study to local communities, reaffirming its purpose and aims, allocating resources for the development of a database for disseminating information on traditional ecological knowledge to targeted audiences and stakeholders, and demonstrating its tangible benefits to communities interested in implementing traditional ecological knowledge. *Voices from the Bay* has been sustainable, cost-effective and locally manageable for the past ten years, resulting in the protection and safeguarding of proprietary knowledge. Its benefits are beginning to be recognized by Canadian policy makers and could be used as a model for community participation in issues directly related to hydroelectric development, sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity.

22. Mr. Jake explained that the remoteness of Cape York, an isolated region in far northern Australia with a large population of indigenous people, from major service centres coupled with its limited infrastructure increase the need for alternative methods of service delivery. A strong emphasis was thus placed on telecommunications, including telemedicine, e-commerce and teleconferencing, to lessen factors impeding improved services and communication. The development of the Cape York Digital Network (CYDN), a part of the Outback Digital Network (ODN), is illustrative of efforts to harness the power of networking to the benefit of local communities. The goals of the CYDN are to provide an effective communication system to the Cape York community; to develop an appropriate telecommunication infrastructure able to deliver required Government services; to promote economic development by eliminating the digital divide; and to make possible the development of a skilled information and communication technology workforce.

23. The Tulalip Cultural Stories Project, initiated in 1996 by the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, was presented by Mr. Hardison. Emphasizing a community-based knowledge management solution, the Tulalip Cultural Stories Project is able to preserve traditional knowledge found in many forms, including: language, spiritual beliefs and practices, traditional songs and dances, and oral history. It is also able to stem the loss of detailed knowledge about the uses of culturally important plants and animals and traditional land management practices. The Project also presents solutions to problems associated with poor access to information by tribal land managers, particularly information on cultural resources and values which may impact on the implementation of land management decisions. Issues related to the tribes' revived commitment to cultural landscape restoration were also examined in the project, especially the effort to recover the ecology and traditional uses of their tribal homelands. The Cultural Stories Project consists of a set of tribally developed methodologies for collecting and organizing biodiversity-related traditional knowledge, mostly from interviews with tribal elders, for archival, cultural revitalization and natural resource management issues. The information has been collected and archived under tribal procedures for obtaining prior informed consent. The information collected in the project has been assembled using a software system called ICONS that manages the information at multiple-levels of access. Moreover, ICONS provides links to Western scientific models used by the Tribes for watershed management, as well as geographic information system technology for resource mapping and spatial analysis. While most of the data are secured for internal tribal use, some is general and non-proprietary, and the system has been designed to allow this information to be shared in open networks using widely adhered to formats. The model can be used to implement other networks where there needs to be a mix of public information sharing and community-based information control. Mr. Hardison also addressed the need to develop information policy when establishing traditional knowledge communication systems.

24. Discussion ensued on the presentations. Interventions were made by RAIPON, Asociación ANDES, Fundación para la Promoción del conocimiento Indígena, Asociación Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Austria and Bolivia.

25. Following the above discussion, the Secretariat gave a presentation on the report concerning a proposal for the establishment of a thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism and the development of communication mechanisms among indigenous and local communities (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG/TK-CHM/1/INF/1).

**ITEM 4. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE THEMATIC FOCAL POINT WITHIN THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM ON ISSUES RELATED TO ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

26. Agenda item 4 was considered at the second session of the meeting, on 24 February 2003. Under this item, pursuant to paragraph 28 of decision VI/10 of the Conference of the Parties, participants were invited to identify the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism and consider ways and means of providing the necessary resources to enable the Secretariat to facilitate cooperation and information exchange among indigenous and local communities.

27. Following the introduction by the Secretariat, experts made statements outlining their experiences and/or needs with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the Clearing-house Mechanism on issues related to Article 8(j). Interventions by experts from Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, IUCN, Cameroon, Asociación ANDES, the Indigenous Information Network, RAIPON and Bolivia.

28. A brief presentation on a possible model describing the roles of the thematic focal point was made by the expert from the RAIPON. In addition, brief presentations were made by the Coordinadora Mapuche de Neuquén, Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Fundación para la Promoción des Conocimiento Indígena, Asociación ANDES, Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indigenas de la Cuenca Amazonica, Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qollasuyu, Fondo Indígena, Indigenous Information Network, and Tulalip Tribes of Washington, on examples of communication networks and mechanisms in Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama, Bolivia, Cameroon and Peru.

29. Following the above discussion on the results pertaining to item 4, the Chair decided that two working groups be formed to discuss the elements under the identification of the roles and responsibilities of the thematic focal point within the Clearing-house Mechanism. The Chair then requested that a small drafting group to compile the results of the two working groups. These results are contained in annex I.

**ITEM 5. DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS**

30. The Technical Expert Group took up agenda item 5 at the third session of the meeting, on 25 February 2003. Under this item, in accordance with paragraph 24 of decision VI/10 and paragraph 5 of decision VI/18, participants were invited to consider the development of communication mechanisms, such as the Indigenous Biodiversity Information Network (IBIN), among indigenous and local communities in response to their need for better understanding of the objectives and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and for supporting discussions on guidelines, priorities, time-lines and the implementation of the thematic programmes of the Convention, as well as ways and means to further develop communication networks for use by indigenous and local communities, with an initial emphasis on information-sharing formats, protocols and standards, having regard to ethical issues pertaining to traditional knowledge. Emphasis was laid on the relevance of identifying key networks and focal points from already existing communications networks (local, national and regional) and potential relationships with emerging global networks, to enable the thematic focal point within the clearing-house mechanism to develop links and communications as soon as possible. The most appropriate architectures

and necessary resources to ensure the effectiveness of such a global, distributed communication networks may also be considered.

31. Following the introduction by the Secretariat, statements were made by Asociación ANDES, Asociación Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Coordinadora Mapuche de Neuquén, and experts from Austria, Bolivia, Indigenous Information Network, Cameroon, United States, Tulalip Tribes of Washington and the Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North.

32. Results of discussions are reflected in annex I to this report.

#### **ITEM 6. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

33. Agenda item 6 was considered at the fourth session of the meeting, on 25 February 2003. Under this item, experts were invited to identify:

(a) Elements for the development of a suitable architecture for the communication networks to enable information-sharing;

(b) Elements for the development of and/or adherence to a set of formats, protocols and standards to facilitate the establishment and operation of the network taking into consideration ethical issues pertaining to traditional knowledge; and

(c) Stakeholders.

34. The Technical Expert Group was also invited to discuss the development and establishment of the logical (structure), physical (nuts and bolts) and human (main actors and users) components of the communication network, how to overcome obstacles associated with the lack of adequate resources and issues pertaining to the digital divide and solutions to inequitable access to new information technologies.

35. Following the introduction by the Secretariat, statements were made by experts from Austria, Asociación ANDES, Bolivia, Indigenous Information Network, Tulalip Tribes of Washington, Asociación Ixacavaa De Desarrollo e Información Indígena, Coordinadora Mapuche de Neuquén and the United States.

36. The results of this discussion are contained in annex I to this report.

#### **ITEM 7. OTHER RELEVANT ITEMS**

37. The Technical Expert Group took up agenda item 7 at the fifth session of the meeting, on 26 February 2003. Experts were also invited to raise and discuss other matters related to the subject-matter of the meeting.

38. There were no other matters raised under this item.

#### **ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

39. The present report was adopted at the fifth plenary session of the meeting, on 26 February 2003, on the basis of the draft report, and taking into account amendments made by participants, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be completed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

40. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, and acknowledgement and thanks was given to Mr. Gregorio Choque and Ms Viviana Lima for their traditional prayers at the opening of each session, the Chair declared the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and the Clearing-House Mechanism closed at 12 noon on Wednesday, 26 February 2003.



*Annex I*

**ITEM 4: IDENTIFICATION OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE THEMATIC FOCAL POINT WITHIN THE CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM ON ISSUES RELATED TO ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**I. OBJECTIVE**

1. Facilitate, support and promote the exchange and dissemination of relevant information for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the preservation and protection of traditional knowledge and a better understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its implementation process, through the establishment of links with networks and other existing information mechanisms, particularly to support initiatives related to indigenous and local communities.
2. In accordance with this objective, the thematic focal point will promote respect for norms for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, with a view to fostering their preservation and maintenance.
3. In addition, the thematic focal point should establish links with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and with indigenous academic research centres and other relevant institutions.

**II. PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION**

1. Promote the respect, preservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in the development of the network.
2. The thematic focal point should not be used for the public exchange of traditional knowledge; and in its operations should conform to the principles of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**III. CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Support initiatives of indigenous and local communities in the use of communication technologies adapted to their needs, depending on available resources.
2. Liaise with distributed networks of national, regional and local focal points.
3. Facilitate the communication between indigenous and local communities and the Parties, Governments and other relevant organizations.
4. Facilitate access by indigenous and local communities to scientific and technical information for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
5. Facilitate access to information relevant for the repatriation of information on the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

#### IV. FUNCTIONS

1. The thematic focal point should collaborate with national focal points to assist indigenous and local communities to access information related to biodiversity issues.
2. The thematic focal point should collaborate with national focal points to facilitate communication through various mechanisms, including traditional and electronic mechanisms to be used at the community level.
3. Establish mechanisms, through the use of, inter alia, electronic mail lists and newsgroups, to discuss the activities of the focal point network and assist in the distribution of such technologies for use by indigenous and local communities.
4. Link with other relevant focal points, networks and systems.
5. Act as a gateway to provide links to experts, tools and resources meeting the needs indigenous and local communities. For example, the gateway should provide links to:
  - (a) Databases and sources on policies, laws, and other instruments to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - (b) Databases about agreements, codes of conduct, declarations, policy statements, and other soft-law instruments relevant for the objectives of the focal point and for the protection of traditional knowledge;
  - (c) Sources about projects, initiatives, and activities undertaken by/with indigenous and local communities for the preservation of traditional knowledge, for conservation and sustainable use, and for legal and policy tools;
  - (d) Databases and sources of information and tools on biological diversity—such as maps, *ex situ* collections with implications for traditional knowledge, inventories, software, etc.;
  - (e) Sources of expertise on specific issues related to the preservation and protection of traditional knowledge—research institutions, networks and rosters of experts, conservation agencies and organizations, academic bodies, practitioners' networks and clearing-houses, etc.;
  - (f) Initiatives undertaken for the creation of databases and registries of traditional knowledge;
  - (g) Sources of advice and expertise on communication technologies and on strategies to advance and democratize access to relevant information;
  - (h) Sources about opportunities for capacity-building (scholarships, fellowships, internships, training facilities, etc.).
6. Collaborate with, and if necessary establish, communication mechanisms such as thematic Internet mail lists and newsgroups, to promote participation in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## V. ELEMENTS FOR A WORK PROGRAMME

### *First step*

1. Convention on Biological Diversity focal points (international, thematic, national) are nodes within a distributed network that aid the orderly movement of information and expedite communication at all levels:
  - (a) Evaluate conditions, needs and priorities of indigenous and local communities related to information access and the establishment of thematic national focal points;
  - (a) Facilitate identification of regional, national and local focal points;
  - (b) The thematic focal point should compile an inventory of existing networks and other information sources, and establish links to them;
  - (c) Provide links to guidance on the creation of a distributed, interoperable network;
  - (d) Create links with identified networks, *inter alia*, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and other relevant organizations, through the thematic focal point;
  - (e) Compile a directory of funding agencies, organizations and sources and facilitate links to these agencies.

### *Permanent activities*

1. Should assist the development of national and regional thematic focal points to be linked to the global thematic focal point, subject to available resources.
2. Promote the use of common formats, protocols and standards.
3. The thematic focal point should try to integrate traditional and new information technologies.
4. Assist national and regional organizations to foster public awareness, subject to available funding.

### *Expected results and capacity-building*

1. Build capacity among indigenous and local communities to understand and participate in the activities of the Convention.
2. Ensure the usefulness of the activities of the focal point to indigenous and local communities.
3. Identify assessment processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the clearing-house mechanism focal point and prepare periodic reviews.

## **ITEM 5: DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS**

*and*

## **ITEM 6: TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION NETWORKS**

### **I. MECHANISMS/TOOLS**

#### ***Electronic mechanism (Principally international but may be national)***

The clearing-house mechanism focal point should develop partnerships with key national and regional organizations based electronic networks and use these networks to facilitate the exchange of information between the clearing-house mechanism and indigenous and local communities. The Convention on Biological Diversity will promote the development of an information portal for dissemination of information on a global scale, through:

- (a) Electronic forums (listservs and newsgroups);
- (b) Internet chat (instant messaging);
- (c) Internet voice;
- (d) Web cam;
- (e) Video-conferencing.

#### ***Electronic non-Internet (principally national and local but may be international)***

Recognizing that the Internet is a useful mechanism to disseminate information, many regions have inequitable access to new information technologies, primarily those technologies that are Internet-based. The modes of communication listed in this section should be used by the national focal points to disseminate information to local communities. These modes can also be used by key national and regional organizations (mentioned above) for wider dissemination to local communities. Local radio/television stations as a potential tool for communication with communities in remote locations should be explored and used to the fullest:

- (a) Radio;
- (b) Television;
- (c) Fax;
- (d) Telephone;
- (e) Electronic newsletter;
- (f) CD-ROM;
- (g) Teleconferencing;
- (h) Video/digital cassettes;
- (i) Letter video.

***Traditional (principally local and national)***

These tools could be used mainly between local partners and groups. Moreover, these tools of communication have also tremendous potential for use by national organizations, to disseminate information available in other networks to the grass-roots level:

- (a) Oral;
- (b) Meetings (agricultural fairs, cultural events, conferences, etc.);
- (c) Print (newspapers, posters, leaflets, magazines, comic books, etc.);
- (d) Folk media (songs, theatre, etc.);
- (e) Graphic arts (paper, textiles, etc.);
- (f) Folklore.

**II. EXISTING NETWORKS**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
<b>INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATION NETWORKS AND MECHANISMS</b>		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	<a href="http://www.atsic.gov.au/issues/Default.asp">http://www.atsic.gov.au/issues/Default.asp</a> <a href="http://www.atsic.gov.au/default.asp">http://www.atsic.gov.au/default.asp</a>	Native title Intellectual property and cultural property rights Land rights
Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Project	<a href="http://www.icip.lawnet.com.au/">http://www.icip.lawnet.com.au/</a>	Education Health Environmental justice Social justice Education Justice system <b>No materials related directly to the CBD</b>
Alaska Native Knowledge Network	<a href="http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/">http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/</a>	Education and curriculum Case-studies of indigenous knowledge in Alaska <b>No materials on the CBD</b>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
African Women's Development and Communication Network	No on-line presence	Indigenous women and gender issues  Biodiversity, intellectual property rights and development issues
Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact	No on-line presence	Land rights  Biodiversity, intellectual property rights and development issues
Asociación Napguana, Panama	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Shores/4852/casa.html">http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Shores/4852/casa.html</a>	<b>Strong emphasis on the CBD, but few supporting materials and links.</b>
Assemblée des Premières Nations / Assembly of First Nations	<a href="http://www.afn.ca/">http://www.afn.ca/</a>	<b>No materials related directly to the CBD</b>
British Columbia Aboriginal Fisheries Commission	<a href="http://www.bcafc.org/">http://www.bcafc.org/</a>	British Columbia aboriginal fisheries issues  <b>A few materials that discuss the CBD, but no substantial documentation</b>
Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazonica (COICA)	<a href="http://www.pangea.org/~coam/coica.htm">http://www.pangea.org/~coam/coica.htm</a>	Indigenous social and political rights, land rights  <b>Several statements and materials on CBD issues, but not updated in over a year</b>
Cordillera People's Alliance	No on-line presence	
First Nations Environmental Network	<a href="http://www.fnen.org/">http://www.fnen.org/</a>	<b>No materials related directly to biodiversity issues</b>
Indigenous Coalition Against Biopiracy	<a href="http://niec.net/ipcb/events/index.html">http://niec.net/ipcb/events/index.html</a>	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
AKA: Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism	<a href="http://www.ipcb.org/">http://www.ipcb.org/</a>	<p>Archaeology</p> <p>Native American graves protection and repatriation act</p> <p>Human genome diversity project</p> <p>Biotechnology</p> <p>Anthropological, cultural heritage and genetic research on indigenous peoples</p>
Indigenous Environmental Network	<a href="http://www.ienearth.org/">http://www.ienearth.org/</a>	<p>Environmental justice</p> <p>Social justice</p> <p>Environmental quality and cultural survival</p> <p>Toxics, nuclear, mining, pollution, energy development, and waste</p> <p>Land rights</p> <p><b>Little directly addressed at the CBD (although the IEN directly supports indigenous activities at the CBD).</b></p>
Indigenous Intellectual Property Constituency	<a href="http://www.world.std.com/~iipc/">http://www.world.std.com/~iipc/</a>	<p>Intellectual property rights and indigenous peoples, with a particular emphasis on establishing an “indigenous” classification in the Internet domain registry (.ind).</p>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
International Alliance of the Indigenous-Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests  Alianza Mundial de los Pueblos Indigenas-Tribales de los Bosques Tropicales	<a href="http://iaip.gn.apc.org/">http://iaip.gn.apc.org/</a>	
Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network	No online presence	
Indigenous Women's Environmental Network	No online presence	
International Indian Treaty Council	<a href="http://www.treatycouncil.org/">http://www.treatycouncil.org/</a>	Human rights  <b>Few on-line materials related to the CBD (one declaration)</b>
Maori Congress	No online presence	
North American Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Project  In affiliation with:  Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)  Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	No online presence	Biodiversity  CBD
Rethinking Tourism Project	<a href="http://www.rethinkingtourism.org/index.html">http://www.rethinkingtourism.org/index.html</a>	Cultural tourism and ecotourism  <b>Newsletter that covers relation between CBD and indigenous tourism</b>



Name	Website	Focus
<b>NGO NETWORKS</b>		
Amanaka'a Amazon Network	<a href="http://www.amanakaa.org/">http://www.amanakaa.org/</a>	Human rights, indigenous rights, land- rights issues <b>No on-line documentation of CBD issues</b>
Amazon Coalition - Coalition in Support of Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment	<a href="http://www.amazoncoalition.org/">http://www.amazoncoalition.org/</a>	Human rights, indigenous rights, land rights issues <b>A few declarations on intellectual property rights and indigenous peoples</b>
Asia Pacific People's Assembly	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/8340/">http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/8340/</a>	Coverage of 1997 conference <b>No on-line documents related to the CBD</b>
Center for World Indigenous Studies	<a href="http://www.cwis.org/">http://www.cwis.org/</a>	Indigenous social and political rights, land rights <b>Recently established biodiversity programme, but little integration with indigenous delegates who have worked on the Convention, and no on-line documents on CBD issues.</b>
The Earth Council Indigenous Peoples, Mother Earth and Spirituality Project	<a href="http://www.itpcentre.org/me_index.htm">http://www.itpcentre.org/me_index.htm</a>	Indigenous land, civil and cultural rights <b>Some documentation on the CBD in relation to the Rio+5 activities, but no updates since 1997.</b>
Forest Action Network	<a href="http://www.ftpp.or.ke/fan/">http://www.ftpp.or.ke/fan/</a>	
Forest People's Programme  World Rainforest Movement	<a href="http://www.wrm.org.uy/">http://www.wrm.org.uy/</a>	
Forum for Biodiversity and Food Security, India	No online presence	
Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions	<a href="http://www.frht-india.org/">http://www.frht-india.org/</a>	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
Genetic Resources Action International	<a href="http://www.grain.org/">http://www.grain.org/</a>	Intellectual property rights and plant genetic resources <b>Good and extensive coverage of CBD in the GRAIN newsletter <i>Seedling</i></b> <b>Focus on IPR, and little discussion of other indigenous sectors</b>
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	<a href="http://www.iatp.org/">http://www.iatp.org/</a>	Intellectual property rights and plant genetic resources International agriculture and trade policy <b>Focus on IPR, and little discussion of other indigenous sectors</b>
International Institute for Sustainable Development	<a href="http://iisd1.iisd.ca/">http://iisd1.iisd.ca/</a>	<b>Conference-related coverage of CBD issues</b> <b>Thematic summary, but dated and not kept current</b>
KWIA - Flemish Support Group for Indigenous Peoples	No online presence	
NGO Working Group on Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity (Environment Liaison Centre International, Kenya)	No online presence	
People's Commission on Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge and People's Rights Research Foundation for Science, Technology & Ecology	<a href="http://www.indiaserver.com/betas/vshiva/pcom.htm">http://www.indiaserver.com/betas/vshiva/pcom.htm</a>	
International NGO Network on Desertification and Drought	<a href="http://riod.utando.com/">http://riod.utando.com/</a>	
Revista Semillas de la Economía Campesina	<a href="http://www.colnodo.org.co/semillas/">http://www.colnodo.org.co/semillas/</a>	Intellectual property rights and plant genetic resources <b>Good coverage of CBD issues, with an IPR focus</b>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
Rural Advancement Foundation International	<a href="http://www.rafi.org/">http://www.rafi.org/</a>	
South Pacific Peoples' Foundation	<a href="http://www.sppf.org/">http://www.sppf.org/</a>	
Terralingua - Partnerships for Linguistic and Biological Diversity	<a href="http://www.terralingua.org/">http://www.terralingua.org/</a>	
Thai Networking on Community Rights and Biodiversity (BIOTHAI)	No online presence	
Third World Network	<a href="http://www.twinside.org.sg/">http://www.twinside.org.sg/</a>	
Tropical Rainforest Coalition	<a href="http://www.rainforest.org/">http://www.rainforest.org/</a>	
UBINIG - Policy Research for Development Alternatives, Bangladesh	No online presence	
UK Agricultural Biodiversity Coalition	<a href="http://www.ukabc.org/">http://www.ukabc.org/</a>	
Working Group on Traditional Resource Rights	<a href="http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wgtrr/">http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wgtrr/</a>	
<b>UNIVERSITY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS</b>		
Arctic Council	<a href="http://arctic-council.usgs.gov/">http://arctic-council.usgs.gov/</a>	
Canadian Arctic Resources Committee	<a href="http://www.carc.org/">http://www.carc.org/</a>	
Cambridge University - Scott Polar Research Institute	<a href="http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/">http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/</a>	
Centre for International Research and Advisory Networks	<a href="http://www.nuffic.nl/ciran/">http://www.nuffic.nl/ciran/</a> <a href="http://www.nuffic.net/common.asp?id=435&amp;instantie=0">http://www.nuffic.net/common.asp?id=435&amp;instantie=0</a>	
Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	<a href="http://www.bellanet.org/enrap/">http://www.bellanet.org/enrap/</a> <a href="http://www.enrap.org/">http://www.enrap.org/</a> <a href="http://www.ifad.org/">http://www.ifad.org/</a>	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
FAO - Forests, Trees and People Program	<a href="http://www-trees.slu.se/">http://www-trees.slu.se/</a>	
Farmers' Rights Information Service	<a href="http://www.mssrf.org/fris9809/">http://www.mssrf.org/fris9809/</a>	
Global Knowledge Partnership The Global Knowledge for Development (GKII Discussion)	<a href="http://www.globalknowledge.org/">http://www.globalknowledge.org/</a>	
Industry Canada Intellectual Property Policy Directorate (IPPD)	<a href="http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ip00001e.html">http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/ip00001e.html</a>	
International Development Research Centre - Biodiversity Programs	<a href="http://www.idrc.ca/biodiversity/">http://www.idrc.ca/biodiversity/</a>	
Interregional Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and other Self-Help Organizations (INDISCO)  International Labour Organization (ILO)	<a href="http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/ent/coop/indisco.htm">http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/ent/coop/indisco.htm</a>	
Medicinal Plant Network  International Development Research Centre Regional Office for South Asia	<a href="http://source.bellanet.org/medplant/">http://source.bellanet.org/medplant/</a>	
People and Plants Programme UNESCO Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	<a href="http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/peopleplants/index.html">http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/peopleplants/index.html</a>	
Red Indigena Indigenous People Professional Directory (IPPD)  World Bank	<a href="http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/essd/indigenous.nsf/home">http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/essd/indigenous.nsf/home</a>	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Focus</i>
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	<a href="http://www.sprep.org.ws/">http://www.sprep.org.ws/</a>	
World Bank Indigenous Knowledge Initiative	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/index.htm">http://www.worldbank.org/afr/ik/index.htm</a>	

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK

1. Initial communication mechanisms could be made through the thematic focal point.
2. Recommendations pertaining to formats, protocols and standards could be taken from report of the informal meeting on formats, protocols and standards, held in Montreal in February 2002 and also include security standards that take into account the express concern of indigenous and local communities for the protection of traditional knowledge in communication networks.
3. Identify potential donors.
4. Network should adhere to a distributed architecture, where ownership of the data remains with the custodian.
5. The network should establish and use electronic forums on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity created by the thematic focal point for use of indigenous and local communities.
6. The network should foster sustainability through mutual support and exchange of expertise, and promote capacity-building activities.
7. Promote fast-bandwidth use among regions and adopt appropriate technologies to areas with inequitable access to technologies.
8. The network should accommodate multi-language use.
9. Use policies should be developed to ensure relevant exchange of information.
10. Request World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to explore the use of appropriate tools and mechanisms able to provide safeguards and protection for management of information available through the focal point network.

*Annex II*

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