

## TONGA, KINGDOM OF

In a letter dated October 24, 2001, to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Deputy Registrar of the Intellectual Property & Company Registration Unit, Ministry of Labor, Commerce & Industries in the Kingdom of Tonga advised as follows:

*“Survey on Existing Forms of Intellectual Property Protection for Traditional Knowledge.”*

...

The information required by the Survey are not applicable to Tonga, since there is no formal means of protection exist now. Geographical names, Tongan phrases, traditional designs, etc, can however be considered under *the “Industrial Property Act 1994”*, although they are not specifically indicated in it. Various Groups in the society have voiced out the need to protect the traditional knowledge, traditional medicine, plant variety, etc. that are peculiar to Tonga. This is still under due consideration.”