

THE SUDANESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC ARCHIVE¹

The Traditional Music Archive (TRAMA)² is a research and documentation center which focuses on the “collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of traditional music and folklore”³. It is part of the Institute of African and Asian Studies within the Department of Folklore at the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Its collection of recordings is mainly derived from live recordings obtained through fieldwork among ethnic communities in Sudan. TRAMA signs consents with the tribal representatives of each group before performances are recorded, and 50% of cassette tapes are provided by TRAMA to the group, a form of benefit-sharing. TRAMA and the communities concerned then sell such tapes as they can to generate income⁴. The archive currently has some 4000 recordings, which it wishes to digitize for enhanced presentation and dissemination.

This is an example in which the IP rights of the local artists are taken into account, and where efforts are being made for the preservation of folklore. As has been pointed out, “this project takes care of the intellectual property issue, encourages local distribution of the product and hopefully strengthens the local tradition”⁵. TRAMA’s involvement with the local communities and its outreach to a wide range of audiences are both acknowledged to be part of the archive’s strengths.

Amongst other things, TRAMA is also actively participating in regional networks, such as the Culture Africa Network (CAN), which is a regional network promoting archival cooperation between members, located in Cape Town, South Africa. The network’s objective is “to facilitate the local gathering and sharing of excellent digital documentary resources for education, research and the promotion of Africa’s artistic heritage and its

¹ The views expressed in the resource and practices referred to in this summary do not necessarily constitute the views of WIPO or any of its Member States.

² See <http://www2.uofk.edu/index.php?id=125>

³ See <http://www.uofk.edu/institutes/african/trama.html> and <http://www2.uofk.edu/index.php?id=125>

⁴ Discussion with Prof. Ali Ibrahim al-Daw, Assistant Director, TRAMA, November 2005.

⁴ See Seeger, A. and Chaudhuri, S. (2004) “Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21 Century”, ARCE-AIIS, Delhi and Seagull, Kolkata

⁵ See <http://www.luxlapis.co.za/cama.htm>

culture makers”. These cooperative projects involving TRAMA promote awareness of the IP rights of local artists and communities and, at the same time, make available, monitor and preserve Sudanese cultural heritage⁶.

For more information, see WIPO Creative Heritage Project⁷.

⁶ See Ali Ibrahim al-Daw “A Call for an International Archival Network (IAN), <http://www.seagullindia.com/archive/chapter07.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/index.html>