

# Short Story Competition

on Indigenous Ingenuity and Creativity



## Call for Submissions

# WIPO Short Story Competition on Indigenous Ingenuity and Creativity

## Call for Submissions

April 26, 2021

In celebration of **World Intellectual Property Day (April 26)** and **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9)**, the Traditional Knowledge Division of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is launching a WIPO Short Story Competition on Indigenous Ingenuity and Creativity.

### Background and Objectives

All over the world, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) have developed a wealth of traditional knowledge, such as technical knowledge related to biodiversity, agriculture, climate change and health, and traditional cultural expressions, such as music, art, performances, architecture, crafts and designs. The intellectual property system does not provide solutions to all the challenges IPLCs face when seeking protection for their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, but it does offer tools which can be used to protect certain aspects of and promote (or prevent the misappropriation of) these traditional forms of ingenuity and creativity. For example, strategic use of various intellectual property tools can be a way for IPLCs to maximize the economic value of products and services based on (or related to) their traditional culture. While some IPLCs have already taken advantage of intellectual property tools, others are not yet aware of the ways in which they could use the intellectual property system.

Through this activity, we intend to draw attention to and celebrate indigenous ingenuity and creativity, as well as raise awareness of the needs and challenges faced by IPLCs interested in seeking the protection of their traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services. We also aim to call attention to how the intellectual property system could be used by IPLCs. Finally, we aim to support IPLCs by providing financial and technical assistance to the winners following the conclusion of the competition.

With this in mind, WIPO is inviting active members of IPLCs to submit short stories related to their traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services.

### Submission Requirements

**Who can enter:** Active members of IPLCs can submit stories with the written support of their communities. Co-authorship of a story from members of the same community is welcomed. Multiple submissions of stories from the same authors are not possible, however.

**Story content:** We would welcome *factual stories* that cover the past, present and future of the traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services of an indigenous or local community. Where possible, we would like to know about the history behind the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and

services, as well as how they are being used today by members of the given community, and how they would like to see them develop going forward for the good of the community.

For example, a story could introduce us to the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services, describing its material and spiritual significance for the community. Applicants could also share examples (if any) of how their community has faced any problems or challenges in protecting and promoting (or preventing the misappropriation of) their traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services, and, if so, how the community has managed or is planning to manage those problems or challenges.

Where IPLCs are already using intellectual property tools to protect and promote their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services, the story should also include a description of the community's experience with the intellectual property system.

The stories themselves should be original in the sense of having been written by the author/s. Stories should **not** contain information on sacred or secret traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions of the community. For example, stories should not disclose any technical information that has not previously been published, because doing so might prevent the community from later applying for a patent or industrial design.

**Word Count:** Stories should be between 500-800 words.

**Language:** Stories may be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Applicants must be able to communicate in one of these languages.

### Assessment Guidelines

Submitted stories will be evaluated by an independent panel of judges, considering the following criteria:

- depiction of indigenous ingenuity and creativity, conveying a sense of past, present and future as it relates to the community's traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services;
- potential for community development and benefit in a collective way;

- feasibility of a potential project that could be derived from the short story; and
- use (or intended/potential use) of the intellectual property system.

A questionnaire is attached to this Call for Submissions. The purpose of this questionnaire is to give applicants the opportunity to provide additional information that might not be included in the stories. Applicants are required to complete the questionnaire, as the answers will be taken into consideration by the independent panel of judges when assessing the submissions.

Only complete submissions by active members of IPLCs will be transmitted to the independent panel of judges. Stories will not be judged on grammatical accuracy, writing style or flow.

### Awards

Two awards will be granted. Cash will not be provided. The awards will consist of financial support (valued up to USD 7,000) and technical support (within WIPO's expertise) for the implementation of intellectual property-related projects related to the winning stories. The awards are designed to allow IPLCs to better protect or promote their traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services.

Projects should aim to provide opportunities for IPLCs to sustainably protect and promote their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, or related products and services, and should benefit the winners and their communities.

Applicants will not be required to submit an outline of their projects. This would only be required of the winners of the competition.

The support will be provided over a period of 12 months with the possibility of a 6-month extension.

### How to Submit an Entry

Please submit an entry by email to WIPO's Traditional Knowledge Division at [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int). Submissions are considered complete when they include the following:

- a story, including any complementary photos and videos;
- an official letter from an IPLC, such as an organization or other representative body, confirming that the applicant (or applicants) belong to the IPLC and is (or are) an active member (active members) of the community. The letter should clearly confirm that the IPLC supports the submission of the story;
- a declaration signed by the applicant(s), committing to provide a project proposal related to their story, in the event the applicant(s) win(s) the competition. The project proposal is to be submitted within one month of the official announcement of the winners; and

- The questionnaire duly completed (1000 words maximum).

The subject of the email should read "WIPO Short Story Competition". The body of the email should include the name of the person or persons submitting the story, the IPLC to which they belong, their country, email address and phone number.

Submissions should not include any other attachments or enclosures (such as project proposals or other materials).

**Deadline for submissions:** June 7, 2021 midnight, Geneva, Switzerland time.

### Important Note for Applicants

The purpose of the WIPO Short Story Competition is to provide financial and technical support to IPLCs. Therefore, please note that applicants may be asked to provide additional information on their connections to the IPLCs to which they belong. Applicants may also be asked to demonstrate how their IPLC would benefit from the assistance to be provided.

Before sending a submission, applicants should make sure that the story or answers to the questionnaire do not include any confidential information or information that should not be disclosed to a third party, in particular sacred or secret traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions of their community.

Submissions will not be published by WIPO or made available to anyone other than the members of the independent panel of judges. Only the winning stories will be published, in consultation with the author/s.

Kindly note that, for the winners of the competition, their submissions will imply their authorization, unlimited in time, for WIPO to use, reproduce, translate and make available the stories submitted, for promotional purposes. Any use of the submissions by WIPO will include clear and proper acknowledgements of the author(s) and their communities. The same conditions will apply to any submitted photos or videos.

Stories may be edited prior to publication, in coordination with the authors.

Should interested members of IPLCs have any questions, please feel free to contact WIPO's Traditional Knowledge Division by email at [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int).

# ANNEX

## Questionnaire

*For those already using intellectual property tools:*

### **About you and your community**

1. Tell us about yourself. Are you an active member of your community? Do you have a specific role within your community?
2. Tell us about your community.

### **About the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions of your community behind the short story**

3. Tell us about the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression behind your short story.
4. What are the plans of your community regarding the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression behind your short story?

### **About the intellectual property tool your community is using**

5. What intellectual property tool is your community currently using? (e.g. collective mark, certification mark, copyright, patent, etc.)
6. Is the intellectual property tool being somehow used to protect or promote the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression (or related products or services) of your community? Is it being somehow used to foster the social, economic or cultural development of your community?
7. Who is the holder of this intellectual property? Who uses it?
8. What benefits has the use of this tool brought? Or, what benefits do you hope it will bring? Have the benefits reached or will reach only certain individuals or the whole community?

### **About your needs**

9. What challenges associated with your short story is your community currently facing?
10. What kind of support do you and your community need? Should you win this competition, how would you and your community use the financial and technical support provided by WIPO?

*For those not yet using intellectual property tools:*

### **About you and your community**

1. Tell us about yourself. Are you an active member of your community? Do you have a specific role within your community?
2. Tell us about your community.

### **About the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions of your community behind the short story**

3. Tell us about the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression behind your short story.
4. What are the plans of your community regarding the traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression behind your short story?

### **About the intellectual property tool your community would like to use**

5. Have you already considered the intellectual property tool your community would like to use? (e.g. collective mark, certification mark, copyright, patent, etc.)
6. Would your community somehow use this intellectual property tool to protect or promote its traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expression (or related products or services)? Would this intellectual property tool somehow be used to foster the social, economic or cultural development of your community?
7. Who would be the holder of this intellectual property? Who would use it?
8. What benefits do you hope it would bring? Who would benefit from the use of an intellectual property tool? Would it benefit only certain individuals or the community as a whole?

### **About your needs**

9. What challenges associated with your short story is your community currently facing?
10. What kind of support do you and your community need? Should you win this competition, how would you and your community use the financial and technical support provided by WIPO?