

WIPO



WIPO/GRTKF/IC/1/2 Add.

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: April 19, 2001

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

First Session

Geneva, April 30 to May 3, 2001

ADDENDUM TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/1/2 entitled "Rules of Procedure" lists a number of non-governmental organizations which requested, before April 5, 2001, to be granted observer status in sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, as referred to in paragraph 8 of that document.

2. The Annex to the present document lists additional organizations which, subsequent to April 5, 2001, have also requested observer status.

3. *The Intergovernmental Committee is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document, together with the organizations listed in the Annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/1/2 entitled "Rules of Procedure."*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED
REPRESENTATION AS OBSERVERS IN SESSIONS OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)

First Peoples Worldwide

Health and Environment Program

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”

The Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN)

The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

The Berne Declaration

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board

World Wide Fund for Nature

Center For International Environmental Law (CIEL)

With offices in Washington D.C. and Geneva, CIEL provides legal advice on international and comparative law, policy and management. In Geneva, CIEL serves as a public-interest international law-firm on issues of environment and sustainable development to government, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations located in Geneva and around the world.

In Geneva, CIEL focuses primarily on the links among trade, environment and development, and provides support to national missions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with a special focus on matters relating to the World Trade Organization.

CIEL also continues its tradition of educating public-spirited lawyers and building institutional capacity to address global environmental problems through its teaching and training program, including its joint Summer Law Institute with the American University's Washington College of Law.

To support these activities, CIEL conducts independent policy research on pressing issues of international law for sustainable development, writing, and publishing extensively on topics concerning environmental protection, economic globalization, and global governance.

CIEL has undertaken work relating to intellectual property rights, particularly in the context of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. CIEL attorneys have authored papers on the relationship between the conservation of biodiversity and the TRIPS Agreement, and on methods of IPR protection that may of use in protecting traditional knowledge. CIEL attorneys also provide ad-hoc advice to NGOs on intellectual property rights issues. CIEL Geneva is currently involved in a joint project with the South Centre to assist Developing Country WTO delegates on IPR issues. CIEL was also involved in the day of discussion held by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. CIEL's work crosses many geographical boundaries. CIEL works with developing country delegates in Geneva, and the United States of America and European Governments. CIEL works with NGOs from many regions of the world including Asia, South America and Africa.

CIEL would be represented by Matthew Stilwell (Managing Attorney) and Catherine Monagle (Attorney).

Foundation For Aboriginal And Islander Research Action (FAIRA)

The Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA) is a community organisation owned and managed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

FAIRA was first incorporated on 5 April 1977 under the Queensland Companies Act and later (on 14 October 1993) under the Aboriginal Councils and Association Act 1976. FAIRA is a registered charity and a benevolent institution within the meaning of the Taxation Act.

FAIRA is based in Brisbane, the capital city of the State of Queensland, however the objectives of FAIRA are concerned with the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout all of Queensland.

Membership of FAIRA is open to persons belonging to the Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia. Non-Indigenous people are welcomed as honorary members, although honorary members can not vote or be elected under our rules.

The activities of FAIRA are controlled by a Governing Committee of thirteen people, who are elected at the Annual General Meeting by the ordinary members of FAIRA. The members of the Governing Committee include representatives from each of the regions of Queensland.

FAIRA is an indigenous rights organisation concerned with human rights issues as they affect the Indigenous Peoples of Australia and elsewhere in the world. FAIRA endeavours to promote the practical use of studies and research under the control of Indigenous Peoples to pursue rights and equality, rejecting the tendency to study Indigenous Peoples from academic or pretentious perspectives.

FAIRA was formed in 1977 to address the racist laws of the Queensland Government which denied the Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples the most basic of human freedoms such as freedom of movement and rights to representation. These laws were known as the 'Black Acts'.

Although the 'Black Acts' were quashed in 1984, FAIRA has continued to campaign for the legal rights of the Indigenous Peoples, such rights to be adequately represented and protected in the laws of the national and state governments.

Land Rights for the Aboriginal Peoples and the Torres Strait Islander Peoples has always been one of the central planks of FAIRA's policies. The FAIRA concept of Land Rights includes self government for the Indigenous Peoples.

Because Australia has never signed a treaty or any formal agreement with the Aboriginal Peoples and the Torres Strait Islander Peoples, FAIRA supports the role and work of the Aboriginal Provisional Government (APG). FAIRA is the Queensland representative for the APG and participates actively in the APG programs, including the distribution of Aboriginal Passports to the Indigenous people.

In 1994 FAIRA was appointed as a native title representative body (NTRB) under Section 203 of the Native Title Act 1993. The NTRB area for FAIRA is south east Queensland. FAIRA is a member of the National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title (NIWG), the national peak body for the NTRBs.

Until 1990, FAIRA financed its operations mainly by fund raising and donations from charitable organisations, eg churches, unions, aid organisations. More recently FAIRA has received operational funds from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

FAIRA also benefits greatly through the large numbers of dedicated supporters of FAIRA who contribute with voluntary work and moral support.

FAIRA would like to nominate Neva Collings to attend the first session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

First Peoples Worldwide

First Peoples Worldwide is the international department of First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, United States of America. FNDI has more than 20 years' experience in providing technical and financial assistance to Native American tribes and organizations for the purpose of helping them build culturally appropriate economic development opportunities for their members. FPW, operating since 1997, is a natural extension of this experience, working internationally to help indigenous communities secure their rights and promote economic development on their own terms.

About First Peoples Worldwide (from the FPW Website)

Indigenous people around the world share not only a common ethos, but also face similar challenges and struggles. By networking and sharing common experiences, indigenous peoples can learn from each other to secure their future. Practicing culturally appropriate development for nearly 20 years, First Nations Development Institute, an indigenous-led organization specializing in Native American economic development, has received numerous requests for financial and technical assistance from indigenous groups in various parts of the world. These groups want to design and implement their own community-oriented development projects and programs. They are interested in how "First Nations made it work." First Nations Development Institute responded to these requests by creating an international department called First Peoples Worldwide.

First Peoples Worldwide takes an active role in sustaining both the land and the culture of indigenous peoples by:

- Facilitating and fostering the equitable participation of indigenous peoples in the resolution of environmental, legal, and economic issues;
- Assisting with the financial and technical assistance and resources necessary to strengthen and facilitate indigenous-controlled, culturally appropriate development projects, programs, and intermediaries;
- Advocating indigenous self-governance; and
- Building an indigenous network, information clearinghouse, and databank that includes information on indigenous self-governance and indigenous land rights.

First Peoples Worldwide is currently working in two development sites - southern Africa and Australia. In both cases, we work directly with local indigenous organizations and communities on defined projects. Our work in southern Africa is primarily legal in nature, while our work in Australia is geared toward developing an alternative financing mechanism for Aboriginal communities. Additional components of our program include our fellowship program and our corporate engagement strategy.

Health And Environment Program

Brief description of our organization:

- Implementation of farmer's rights at each national level and a global strategy for the Central African countries
- Creation of options for putting farmers' rights into practice. Therefore, exploring of the core issues of governments should be aware of when they translate farmer's rights into effective legal systems and practical actions and invest in, such as the development of "misappropriation regimes."
- Research programmes to strengthen traditional or ecological farming and therefore objective of Farmer's Rights, at least as agreed at the international level.
- Policymaking on TRIPs, and sui generis rights and how to promote more biodiverse, and more equitable agricultural sectors in the Central African countries (Cameroon, Tchad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Congo).
- Elaboration of a questionnaire for interview address to farmers and all the actors on TRIPs in order to evaluate the Gross Domestic Rate and the level of competitiveness of countries in sub-region CEMAC in international trade. Hence, protect intellectual property rights in the process of globalisation in sub-region, measure the indicators required by modelling to see whether Central African countries as members of WTO provide at least as specified level of protection to all the generally recognised forms of IPRs (intellectual property rights).

Main Objectives:

- Promotion and vulgarisation of TRIPs (trade related intellectual property rights) to governments, sister NGOs, and farmers.
- Preventing of trade distortions due to the lack of adequate and effective intellectual property protection.
- Lobbying to ratify convention on TRIPs in the Central Africa sub-region.

Full Address:

Health and Environment Program
P.O. Box 875
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Tel/Fax: (237) 922 86 17
E-mail: mlouga@hotmail.com

Contact details:

Focal point of Afri-Tan in Central Africa

Names of countries in which the organization is primarily active:

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon.

Institute For Agriculture & Trade Policy

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) was established in 1986 as a nonprofit and tax exempt research and education organization. Our mission is to create environmentally and economically sustainable communities and regions through sound agriculture and trade policy. The Institute assists public interest organizations in effectively influencing both domestic and international policymaking through the following activities:

Monitoring, Analysis and Research

IATP monitors the key events and topics related to agriculture, environment, community economic development and trade. The data are then analyzed to determine potential economic and ecological implications. Policy options are researched and presented in response to specific problems and opportunities.

Education and Outreach

IATP prepares educational materials for distribution to policymakers, opinion leaders and the public at large. This includes a mail order literature service, video productions, public service announcement (PSA) campaigns, conferences and computer networks.

Training and Technical Assistance

IATP provides training, consulting and technical assistance to groups interested in addressing economic and ecological issues through seminars, staff and leadership trainings, teleconferences, videos, on-site consultations and our system of computerized updates.

Coalition Building and International Networking

Concerned groups are brought together in coalitions to increase coordination of activities in a variety of issue areas. IATP also works to build international networks by linking groups in different countries through conferences, study tours, publications, action campaigns and global electronic bulletin boards.

Funding

IATP is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 status designated by the IRS. IATP receives income from public and private foundations, government agencies, individual donors, corporations and church giving programs.

The representative of IATP will be Ms. Shefali Sharma.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) was founded in 1977 and is a major international non-governmental organization. The ICC is primarily active in Alaska, Canada, Far East of Russia, and Alaska (U.S.). The ICC Canada office has ongoing projects in Northern Russia and in Belize.

The ICC main objectives are to strengthen unity among Inuit in the circumpolar region, promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level and to seek full and active partnership in the political, economic and social development of the circumpolar region. The ICC has been mandated through a resolution passed at its general assembly in 1998 to address intellectual property rights issues at an international level.

The ICC Canada mailing address is:

170 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 504
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5V5
Tel(613) 563-2642
Fax(613)565-3089
<http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com>

The person representing ICC at the first session of the Intergovernmental Committee will be Ms. Violet Ford, Director of Research.

International Centre For Trade And Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) was established in Geneva (Switzerland) in September of 1996 to contribute to a better understanding of development and environment concerns in the context of international trade. It fosters sustainable development as the objective of international trade policy-making and participatory decision-making in the design of trade policy.

ICTSD's Programme enables, facilitates and supports multi-stakeholder approaches to trade policy issues through objective information dissemination, policy dialogues and research. ICTSD's dialogues regularly bring together policy-makers and civil society on trade policy issues in Geneva and the regions. ICTSD is also the publisher of BRIDGES © and of the BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest © as well as PUENTES, PASSERELLES and BRÜCKEN which are co-published in Ecuador, Senegal and Germany, respectively. ICTSD worldwide network of leading decision-makers and policy-influencers currently numbers approximately 9,000 people and organizations. ICTSD is non-partisan on issues and represents no particular constituency. The Centre receives funding from governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and private foundations.

Over the last 5 years, ICTSD has been rigorously covering the international debate on the relation between intellectual property rights, biodiversity and traditional knowledge, regularly reporting, through its publications, on ongoing developments at the WTO, WIPO, CBD, FAO as well as civil society activities and other initiatives. Building on its growing network, it has convened meetings that are policy relevant and feed into talks regionally and in Geneva. ICTSD's dialogues activities in this area commenced in May 1998 with a Roundtable Dialogue on TRIPS and Biodiversity with the objective of bringing these issues to a broader community including the WTO, WIPO, Southern NGOs, and indigenous groups. This event was co-organised with IUCN, the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. Most recently ICTSD organized a meeting in Cusco, Peru, bringing together policy-makers and experts on trade, intellectual property, and biological and genetic resources. This meeting was the first in a series of five meetings co-organised with the Quaker's UN Office.

In addition ICTSD is currently partnering with the Quakers United Nations Office on a project entitled "The TRIPS Process: Negotiating Challenges and Opportunities". This project aims to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to understand and participate more effectively in the review of Article 27.3(b) through a series of informal meetings with Geneva-based delegates which draw on, and contribute to the regional dialogues mentioned above. ICTSD is also partnering with UNCTAD on joint project called "An independent policy review on the nature and future of TRIPS". The main goals of the project are: to generate a better understanding of the development implications of the TRIPS Agreement; and to strengthen the analytical and negotiating capacity of developing countries so that they are able to participate in IPRs-related negotiations in an informed fashion and achieve the objectives of sustainable development. ICTSD will be represented by Cristophe Bellmann and Marc Galvin.

Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”

In accordance with its constitutive status and policies, the Indian Movement Tupaj Amaru attach the special attention to the following principals and aims:

- a) to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the economic, social and cultural rights of aboriginal populations in Andean countries of South America and North of Siberia, Russia;
- b) to support the rights to sustainable development of indigenous societies, in particular the rights to their land, territory and sovereignty over their natural resources, with full respect for their cultural values, traditions, forms of social organization and languages;
- c) to promote and develop the cultural and intellectual patrimony, which require to establish an international standard for the protection of their traditional knowledge and genetic resources;
- d) to contribute to struggle for elimination of racism and all other forms of racial discrimination against aboriginal peoples in all countries;
- e) to work for elimination of neocolonialism in all its manifestations and contribute to the peace and security in the world.

Despite to be missing of resources, we have been participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations since its creation in 1982; and also in the Working Group established by resolution 1995/32 of the Commission on Human Rights. We have made significant contributions to their actions especially those regarding the development of international standards for the rights of indigenous peoples.

Do to the urgent nature of its activities, the Indian Movement works in the following projects:

Support pilot projects for the sustainable development of small cooperative enterprises in rural communities in the Andean region and the protection of biodiversity;

Seminars and meetings relating to aboriginal territories, self determination, rights to the land and natural resources, providing informations about the evolution and application of international standards.

Research on the socio-economic conditions of indigenous populations and publishing reports in order to contribute to the problems faced by indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN)

The Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN) is an association of indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' organizations working towards the common goal of nurturing biological diversity for the benefit of indigenous communities and humankind as a whole.

The IPBN is active in issues of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge, including issues of access to genetic resources, biotechnologies, intellectual property and benefit sharing. Founded in 1993 the IPBN links 64 indigenous organizations in 37 countries of Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. The IPBN works closely with indigenous communities to strengthen their capacity to maintain and benefit from their own knowledge, innovations and practices, which includes having a voice in national, regional and international policy development.

The IPBN's International Coordination Office is:

Ruinas 451
Cusco, Peru
Tel: 51 84 246020
Fax: 51 84 232 603
e-mail: ipbn@web.ca

Contact Person:

Mr. Alejandro Argumedo
International Coordinator
Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network

The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

IPGRI is an international research institute with a mandate to advance the conservation and use of genetic diversity for the well-being of present and future generations. It is a Future Harvest Centre supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Founded in 1974, IPGRI is the world's largest international institute dedicated solely to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. It has a staff of over 170, in 15 offices around the world.

IPGRI concentrates on supporting work on plant genetic resources conducted by national research and development systems in developing countries. It also has a special responsibility for bananas and plantains, and for supporting the genetic resources work of the CGIAR system. For more information on our work on law and policy, and in particular intellectual property rights, our web site which can be found at <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org>.

IPGRI wishes to nominate Ms Susan Bragdon, Senior Scientist, Law and Policy, to represent IPGRI at this meeting.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

To catalyse the transition towards sustainable human development, defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute provides the global sustainable development community with representation from Pakistan as well as South Asia as a whole.

Brief History:

SDPI was founded in August 1992 on the recommendation of the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21. The NCS placed Pakistan's socio-economic development within the context of a national environmental plan. This highly acclaimed document, approved by the Federal Cabinet in March 1992, outlined the need for an independent non-profit organisation to serve as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and programme advisory services in support of NCS implementation.

The design of the Institute was initiated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature–Pakistan (IUCN-P) with significant support from CIDA. The Committee for the Constitution of SDPI consulted government officials, academics, intellectuals, NGOs and journalists while formulating the bi-laws and identifying the board of governors.

The SDPI Board of Governors is an independent governing body that determines not only financial and management policies, but also the Institute's research priorities.

SDPI, as a policy-oriented research institute, has had to re-establish relationships with government each time the administration has changed. Despite this relatively unstable political environment, SDPI has, and will continue, to produce quality policy research and advocate democratic governance and pro-people initiatives.

SDPI is registered under the Cooperative Societies Act, 1860.

Mandate:

Conduct policy advice, policy oriented research and advocacy from a broad multi-disciplinary perspective. Promote the implementation of policies, programs, laws and regulations based on sustainable development. Strengthen civil society and facilitate civil society-government interaction through collaboration with other organizations and activist networks. Disseminate research findings and public education through the media, conferences, seminars, lectures, publications and curricula development, including the Citizens Report and State of the Environment Report. Contribute to building up national research capacity and infrastructure.

Goals:

To catalyse the transition towards sustainable and just development in Pakistan.

To serve as a source of expertise and advisory services for the government, private sector, and non-governmental initiatives supporting the implementation of Pakistan's National Conservation Strategy.

To conduct policy-oriented research on sustainable development from a broad multi-disciplinary perspective.

To provide policy advice on matters relating to the mission of the Institute.

To contribute to strengthening the social and physical infrastructure for research in Pakistan including the construction and dissemination of databases and research indices and the improvement of library systems.

To initiate, establish and participate in collaborative advocacy and other activities with like-minded organisations in and outside the country.

These goals reflect the main axes of our work; the means through which we effect change.

The Institute's activities are designed to provide:

Policy advice to government

A forum for policy dialogue

Support to in-house, visiting and external researchers

Publications for research, public and private sector use

A conduit for North South dialogue

An environment for information dissemination and training

A base for regional advocacy and networking

The Berne Declaration

The Swiss NGO working towards equitable North-South relations.

The Berne Declaration is a Swiss non-governmental organization with 16,000 members. Through research, public education and advocacy work, it has promoted more equitable, sustainable and democratic North-South relations since 1968.

The Berne Declaration monitors the role of Swiss corporations, banks, and government agencies. It addresses the problems of unequal international trade and financial relations, unsustainable consumption patterns and cultural prejudices. It calls on all Swiss actors – the private sector and the state, citizens and consumers - to assume their responsibility in resolving these problems.

The Berne Declaration is completely independent, and derives most of its revenues from individual membership fees and donations. It has a staff of 15 and two secretariats in Zurich and Lausanne for the German and French speaking regions. It also entertains a small branch in the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. The BD is an active member of many international NGO networks. It is your contact or partner organization in Switzerland.

"In today's era of globalization, the elites, the governments and banks are building new alliances. In the same way, we must forge alliances amongst ourselves - between India and Switzerland, between you and me. The alliance between the Berne Declaration and the Save the Narmada Movement is a model of this new cooperation." (Arundhati Roy, writer, 15 November 1999 in Zurich/Switzerland)

The Berne Declaration is currently involved in the following programs:

International trade: The BD is committed to making world trade more equitable and sustainable. It monitors the trade policies of the Swiss government, and is opposed to the WTO's Millenium Round and to any clones of the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI). One of the particular goals of the BD's trade program is to integrate gender concerns into international trade negotiations.

Financial relations:

The BD monitors international financial institutions, export credit agencies, Swiss banks and other private investors in order to integrate human rights and environmental concerns into their policies and projects. The BD helps to coordinate international NGO campaigns against destructive dam projects such as the Three Gorges (China) and Ilisu dams (Turkey). It helped to create the World Commission on Dams in 1997.

World Economic Forum in Davos:

In 2000, the BD launched a new program in order to establish an international NGO presence at the World Economic Forum in Davos/Switzerland ("The Public Eye on Davos"). Together with partner NGOs from different countries, the BD calls on the Forum to restrict its focus to management concerns. As long as public affairs are still discussed, the BD attempts to make the Forum more transparent and participatory, and challenges the elite views emanating from Davos in the international media.

Agriculture:

The BD believes that the root cause of world hunger is the unequal distribution of wealth and power, and the concentration of control over natural resources in the hands of the rich. It supports benefit sharing schemes and strengthened farmers rights, and is opposed to any patenting of life forms. The BD also monitors the business policies of large Swiss agrochemical corporations (such as Syngenta/Novartis).

Clean Clothes Campaign:

The BD is engaged in order to improve the miserable working conditions in the international textile industry. Together with two partner groups, the BD coordinates the Swiss leg of the international Clean Clothes Campaign. It launched a successful postcard-writing campaign in 1999, and encourages Swiss textile companies to adopt an internationally acknowledged code of conduct and an independent monitoring system.

Cultural exchange:

The BD is committed to reversing the unequal cultural exchange between North and South. It regularly translates and publishes novels and poems of outstanding Southern authors for a Swiss audience, and frequently invites such authors for reading tours in Switzerland. The BD also tries to stop the infamous role of Switzerland as one of the main trading centers of stolen art and cultural goods.

Children's books:

Since the 1970s, the BD has screened all new children's books on the German-speaking market, and has regularly published lists of recommended books portraying a positive image of cultural diversity. Together with a Swiss partner group, the BD also runs the Baobab children's books fund. The Baobab fund translates and publishes exciting books from Southern authors for Swiss children, and awards an annual prize for the best respective book. The BD also publishes games, comics and children's books in French.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Our Mission:

To work in support of Forum Member governments to enhance the economic and social well-being of the people of the South Pacific by fostering cooperation between governments and between international agencies, and by representing the interests of Forum members in ways agreed by the Forum

Pacific Islands Forum:

The Pacific Islands Forum, (previously the South Pacific Forum) represents Heads of Government of all the independent and self-governing Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand. Since 1971 it has provided member nations with the opportunity to express their joint political views and to cooperate in areas of political and economic concern.

Membership:

The 16 Forum member countries are:

Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Observer:

The French territory of New Caledonia was admitted to the Forum as an Observer in 1999.

Forum:

The Forum meets each year at Head of Government level. Immediately after this, the post-Forum dialogue is conducted at Ministerial level with Forum dialogue partners: Canada, European Union, France, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Philippines (most recent Dialogue Partner, admitted in 1999), United Kingdom, United States of America.

Secretariat:

The Forum administrative arm, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, is based in Suva, Fiji.

South Pacific Forum Vision Statement:

The leaders who have participated in the Twenty-Sixth meeting of the South Pacific Forum, the paramount regional inter-governmental organisation in the South Pacific, have a vision for enhancing regional co-operation for the next twenty-five years in which-

Forum members co-operate on the basis of equality, friendship and mutual respect – with due regard for what each can afford – in efforts to maintain security, improve living standards and ensure sustainable development throughout the region;

Opportunities for co-operation with other governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, including other bodies in the Asia-Pacific region, are actively pursued and developed;

Resources, including fisheries, forestry, minerals, water and land, are developed with proper regard for conservation, the legacy of past generations and the future;

Unity in securing shared interests contributes to the national, regional and global good;

Material progress is matched by improvement in the quality of people's lives, including human development, equality between women and men, and protection of children;

Vulnerability to the effects of natural disasters, environmental damage and other threats will be overcome;

Indigenous and other values, traditions and customs of the region are respected and promoted through cultural, sporting and other exchanges;

Self-determination will be exercised in the remaining dependent territories, and unwelcome activities by external powers, including nuclear testing, will cease;

International economic co-operation through trade, investment and other exchanges, strengthens subsistence and commercial agriculture, industrial development and competition, leading to growth – with equity, broadly-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance;

Openness, accountability and other principles of good government are embodied in the practices, policies and plans of regional institutions; and

National, sub-regional and regional efforts to achieve the Forum's vision receive the support they require from the Forum Secretariat and other regional organisations.

Issued at Madang, Papua New Guinea, 14 September 1995

Secretariat of The Pacific Community (SPC)

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is an Intergovernmental Organization of the Pacific Island region with twenty seven member countries, serving twenty two Pacific Islands which include; American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

Established in 1947 as the “South Pacific Commission”, SPC is the oldest regional organization in the Pacific. It is bilingual, and reaches both English and French speaking Pacific Islands. SPC is also the largest regional technical agency, with the broadest mandate, and therefore a key player in regional development. SPC’s headquarters is in Noumea, New Caledonia; however there is a major branch in Suva, Fiji Islands and an outpost in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

SPC works in partnership with its members, other organizations and donors to deliver priority programmes to its member countries and territories. This includes Memorandums of Understanding with the WHO and UNESCO. SPC work programmes aim to develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capability of Pacific Island people and directly provide information and advice, to enable them to make informed decisions about their future development and well-being. SPC is also a member of the seven member Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP), which work to develop a regional strategy for each organization. They aim to harmonize the specific roles of each organization, co-ordinate joint projects, and improve collaboration in order to achieve better outcomes.

Today, SPC’s role is moving toward the concept of “Guardianship of Pacific Island Resources” and, as such, SPC’s integrated work programme is an effective approach to the management and development of the region’s resources of land, sea and people. The technical programmes cover three broad areas.

People: Cultural Affairs, Population and Demography, Statistics, Women’s Bureau, Youth Bureau, Renewable Energy, Community Education, Regional Media Centre and the Community Health Programme.
Sea: Coastal Fisheries, Oceanic Fisheries and Regional Maritime Programme;
Land: Regional Agriculture and Regional Forestry.

Technical assistance, education and training are delivered through courses, workshops and seminars at national and regional levels. SPC also has strong applied research components. The work programme is based on priorities agreed by members at SPC’s regional conferences and technical meetings, and is approved annually by SPC’s governing Body, the Conference of the Pacific Community, or by the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in years when the Conference does not meet.

The Cultural Affairs Programme within SPC, was initiated in 1996 and is currently funded by France. The programme was initiated primarily to strengthen the Council of Pacific Arts as an institution, to provide assistance with the organisation of the Festival of Arts and to work closely with the Council to identify priorities for the cultural development of the region. The Legal Protection Project initiated by the Cultural Affairs Programme, at the request of the Council of Pacific Arts, is aimed at promoting legislation in the Pacific Islands for the protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture.

For the first time in the region, a Symposium, jointly organized by SPC and UNESCO, provided an opportunity to assess the level of awareness within the Pacific Island countries and territories with regards to the importance of intellectual property issues and mechanisms to ensure, through legal and non legal means, the traditional knowledge and expressions of culture is safeguarded for future generations.

At the same time, the Forum Secretariat was mandated by its last Trade Ministers meeting to work towards the development of national, regional, multilateral and international rules and legislation to protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples for presentation to the Forum Trade Ministers meeting in June 2001. This made a collaborative approach an obvious course by these three organizations, for the benefit of Pacific Island countries.

Rhonda Griffiths, Cultural Affairs Adviser, will represent the Forum Secretariat at the meeting.

Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board

Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board, an organisation that is representative of the Moriori People of Rekohu (Chatham Islands) 800km east of New Zealand.

The Trust Board was established in 1991 and is a tax exempt registered charitable trust whose objectives are, inter alia, dedicated to promoting awareness of the continued customary and treaty rights and identity of the Moriori People.

The Moriori are the Indigenous Peoples of Rekohu and have been fighting for recognition from the Crown and from Maori of their existing rights as a separate people and culture. We are currently awaiting the release of the Waitangi tribunal report which will be released in mid-May relating to the Chathams.

The Trust has been kept informed of developments on the international stage concerning IPR and traditional knowledge issues. We have many issues of our own on the island to deal with such as the wrongful use of our culture symbols and icons for tourist businesses etc.

Te Iwi Moriori and has been represented at various national and international fora over the past 10 years.

The Trust Board is currently engaged in merger discussions with another body representing Moriori interests and we hope to have the one united group by mid June. However, the new body is not legally registered as yet and the other 2 bodies remain in existence until they are eventually wound up.

The Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board will be represented at the meeting by Mr. Maui Solomon

World Wide Fund For Nature

With several million supporters and a network of offices in more than 50 countries on five continents, WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organizations. Today, WWF runs some 700 projects at any time and employs over 3,000 people worldwide. It invests some US\$ 250 million annually in its global conservation programmes.

WWF is an accredited organization with the United Nations (ECOSOC, Category I).

Mission and priorities:

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF's presence worldwide:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Central Africa (Libreville, Gabon), Central America (San José, Costa Rica), Denmark, Eastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indochina (Hanoi, Vietnam), Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Russia, Southern Africa (Harare, Zimbabwe), South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Western Africa (Abidjan, Ivory Coast).

Associates:

Argentina (Fundación Vida Silvestre), Ecuador (Fundación Natura), Nigeria (Nigerian Conservation Foundation), Venezuela (Fudena).

President of WWF International:

Sarah Morrison, Acting President.

President Emeritus:

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Director General:

Dr Claude Martin.

Address of WWF's International Secretariat:

WWF International
27 Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, Switzerland.
Tel: +41 22 364 91 11
Fax: +41 22 364 53 85
e-mail: <infobox@wwfint.org>
URL: www.panda.org

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