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## WORKSHOP

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**WIPO/TK/KLA/17/INF/3**  
**ORIGINAL: EN**  
**DATE: JUNE 4, 2017**

# **Workshop on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge for Economic Development: Empowering Local Communities of Uganda**

organized by  
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

in cooperation with  
Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)

and  
The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

**Kampala, Uganda July 4 and 5, 2017**

INFORMATION NOTE

*Prepared by the Secretariat of WIPO*

## WORKSHOP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF UGANDA

Kampala, Uganda, July 4 and 5, 2017

### Overview

1. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is organizing a workshop on intellectual property (IP) and traditional knowledge (TK) (the term “traditional knowledge” in the title including traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) and genetic resources (GRs)) for economic development with a focus on empowering local communities in Uganda. This workshop will be held in Kampala, Uganda on July 4 and 5, 2017.
2. Uganda, like many other countries, is considering the IP protection of TK and their use for economic development and the empowerment of indigenous and local communities as a matter of primary national interest. Uganda recognizes that conventional IP systems are not sufficient to cater for the unique features of TK and that the existing gaps in the protection of TK are subjecting its indigenous and local communities to loss and misappropriation of their resources without recourse to any forum nationally, regionally or internationally. Protecting traditional forms of creativity and innovation through IP would, therefore, not only be a historic and positive shift in policy direction in Uganda but it would also enable indigenous and local communities to manage and exploit TK for their benefit towards facilitating national economic, cultural and social development.
3. At the international level, negotiations are currently underway in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) to develop an international legal instrument (or instruments) for the effective protection of GRs, TK and TCEs. In addition to administering and facilitating the IGC process, the Traditional Knowledge Division of WIPO offers practical and technical assistance to enable Member States to make effective use of existing IP systems in relation to GRs, TK and TCEs and, where so decided by Member States, to develop and strengthen new specially adapted national and regional systems for the protection of TK and to manage the interface between IP and access to and benefit-sharing in GRs.
4. This multi-stakeholder practical workshop will bring together over 100 participants including officials from the national IP Office (URSB), government officials from other relevant ministries, traditional leaders and members of local communities from the districts, local representatives of relevant intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO, lawyers, academia and experts from other East African Community countries, among others.

### Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- a) to sensitize, engage and facilitate national dialogue on IP and TK, TCEs and GRs as a first step to developing a national policy or strategy on TK to be integrated into the recently validated national IP policy;
- b) in the long term, to have a national IP policy that is all inclusive;
- c) to create a platform for national stakeholders to engage and to exchange ideas and experiences with participants from other East African Community (EAC) countries and learn from them.

## Expectations

It is expected that after the workshop:

- a) the capacity of participants to consider the issues of IP and TK will be enhanced;
  - b) a factual report will be produced, outlining the discussions and presentations and, most importantly, laying out recommendations set out by participants to policymakers that identify the priority needs, issues and next steps to be considered in developing an all-inclusive national IP policy.
5. The proceedings of the workshop will be recorded in writing by rapporteurs. There will, however, be no formal 'outcomes' or decisions of the workshop.
6. The program for the workshop is available as document WIPO/TK/KLA/17/INF/2. The issues surrounding IP and TK, TCEs and GRs will be introduced by short presentations, illustrated in practical terms as appropriate with case studies, followed by ample time for interactive dialogue and questions. The sessions will also be enriched by the experiences and perspectives from participants from three EAC countries, namely Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania. The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) will also be invited. All Participants will be invited to engage actively in the workshop.

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