

SURVEY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DATABASES  
Sultanate of Oman (National Intellectual Property Office) - Replies

1. In accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act (issued by Royal Decree No. 35/2019), all examples of traditional knowledge, including genetic resources and folklore, are recorded in a registry with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.
2. Not currently applicable.
3. Article 31 of the Cultural Heritage Act.
4. Documentation, protection, benefit-sharing, asset generation, job creation.
5. National Registry (see Article 33 of the Act); information (see Article 34 of the Act).
6. Roles of the stakeholders:
  - Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.
  - Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.
  - Ministry of Heritage and Tourism currently.
  - The role played by Indigenous Peoples in heritage conservation and impressing upon the younger generations the importance of preserving the crafts and knowledge of their indigenous forebears and using such knowledge to generate new assets.
7. Principles and modalities:
  - Currently with the competent autonomous authorities.
  - In connection with the establishment of a national registry, it covers all types of traditional knowledge.
8. Benefit-sharing with companies that generate new assets, use this knowledge to provide financial sustainability and protect it as intellectual property (IP).
9. The legal effect is to ensure that special protection applies to the use by companies and other countries of such resources, protecting them as patents. Such resources, in the absence of international legal provisions to protect countries that depend on them as a source of income for artisans and craftspeople, could otherwise be appropriated by other countries.
10. Through benefit-sharing in ways that do not lead to disputes; otherwise cases are referred to the Dispute Resolution Commission.

11. Currently there are no interoperability standards in place for data fields.
12. Customary practices emanating from traditional knowledge and folklore encompass a wealth of traditional knowledge and skills. That knowledge has been documented, registered and certified by the National Intellectual Property Office, through a documentary study of handicraft products. That study has also been submitted to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
13. Yes: An international system or law to protect countries' knowledge from piracy and safeguard rights holders' rights; and the establishment of departments for traditional knowledge and genetic resources within national IP offices.

In addition:

Innovative designs and heritage decorations have been deposited with the National Intellectual Property Office.

Innovations with applications in modern life include:

- Use of water and oil extracted from milk in perfumes and cosmetics
- Roses in Omani cuisine
- Textile products as cases for electronic devices such as mobile phones
- Applications for dining table and chair sets
- Pen-shaped wood carvings for a variety of Omani woodwork objects
- Model ships, censers, canes, dagger handles, office sets, medallions and so on
- Censers and figures made from the husks of unripe coconuts

End of replies