

FIJI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE¹

The Ministry of Fijian Affairs, Culture and Heritage² of Fiji has actively developed practical and policy measures to preserve and safeguard Fiji's cultural heritage, with the aim to "strengthen the conservation, preservation, promotion and protection of all forms of cultural and natural heritage. These include intangible and tangible, movable and immovable heritage, and cultural industries"³.

Guidelines and manuals have been published to guide researchers on how to conduct research involving Fiji's cultural heritage. One example is the "Training Manual on Field Research Methodology Designed for Cultural Mapping Field Officers"⁴. The manual contains information on the steps and points to take into account when conducting the research. It includes guidance on intellectual property questions, based on the Pacific Regional Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture⁵, 2002, which WIPO assisted in drafting.

Another example is the "Recommended Guideline for Socio-Cultural Researchers when Undertaking Fieldwork in Cultural Settings"⁶. This Guideline introduces socio-cultural researchers to ethical aspects of conducting anthropological research. Two main issues emphasized throughout the Guideline are the need for consent⁷ and awareness-raising⁸, both of which are related to IP issues.

The Fijian Ministry also commenced a national inventory project in 2003 to collect all Fijian cultural data. This initiative arose from the need for a formalized legislative structure for the preservation and safeguarding of Fiji's cultural heritage. See further

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://www.culture.gov.fj/>

³ See <http://www.fijianaffairs.gov.fj/Culture%20&%20Heritage/index.htm>

⁴ http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/folklore/creative_heritage/docs/fiji_manual.pdf

⁵ http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/laws/pdf/spc_framework.pdf

⁶ http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/folklore/creative_heritage/docs/fiji_guideline.pdf

⁴ See for instance point e in Stage 1, point d in Stage 3, point c in phase II and point e in phase III of the Recommended Guideline

⁵ See for instance point h in Stage 1, point b in Stage 3, and point b in phase II.

WIPO, “Intellectual Property and Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Survey of Current Practices and Protocols in the South Pacific”⁹, by Malia Talakai.

⁹ http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/folklore/culturalheritage/casestudies/talakai_report.pdf