

# Benefit Sharing in Shared Traditional Knowledge: Challenges and Approaches

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Centre for International  
Governance Innovation

# About CIGI

## **CIGI-ILRP founding belief**

“better international  
governance can improve lives  
of people everywhere, increase  
prosperity, ensure global  
sustainability, address inequality  
and safeguard human rights,  
and promote a more secure  
world”





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# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

## Intellectual Property and the Governance of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Traditional Cultural Expressions

Fostering Innovation and Improving Lives

The project has three main expected outcomes:

- ⇒ Developing comparative case studies (5 Case studies);
- ⇒ capacity building and awareness raising initiatives for Canadian Indigenous communities;
- ⇒ a structured dissemination plan, including an outreach strategy for policy makers and indigenous communities [WIPO-IGC and Canadian Government].



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# Shared traditional knowledge

- This is more the norm, rather than an exception to the rule.  
[Manuel Ruiz Muller, *Protecting Shared Traditional Knowledge: Issues, Challenges, Options* (2013)]
  - Over time, resources move [legally/illegally], resulting in knowledge practices. [Stevia]
  - Confidential sharing across communities,
  - Knowledge due to wide use is considered as forming part of the public domain.

[Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa* (2014)]

# Access and Benefit Sharing Challenges

1. Representation challenges
2. Clashing Worldviews
3. Awareness
4. Uncertainty for industry
5. Regulatory loopholes

# Some ABS Policy Alternatives

1. Compensatory fund
2. Biocultural/community protocols
3. Defensive Approaches (registers/databases)
4. Tiered-approach
5. Principles-based community mechanisms

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Thank you.

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