

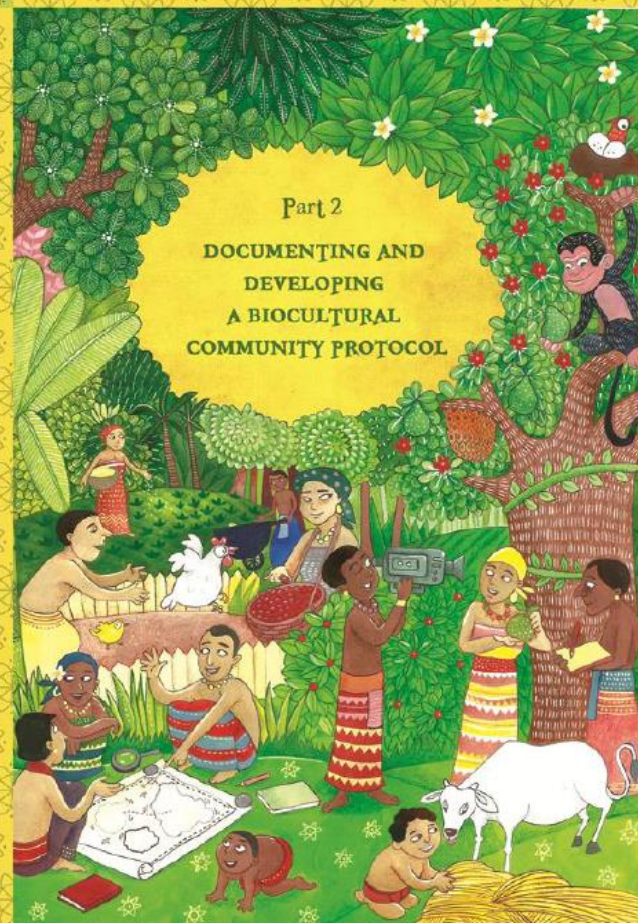
ABS/IPLC communication materials

Examples from Natural Justice

BCP Toolkit

BIOCULTURAL COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS: A TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY FACILITATORS

Integrated Participatory and Legal Empowerment
Tools to Support Communities to Secure Their
Rights, Responsibilities, Territories, and Areas



Videos



Biocultural Community Protocols: Articulating and Assessing Stewardship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWx9IVj173A>



Rooibos Robbery: A Story of Bioprospecting in South Africa

<http://www.naturaljustice.org/video/rooibos-robbery-a-story-of-bioprospecting-in-south-africa>

BCP photo stories



Rooibos: Factsheet, tea boxes and movie



What is the relationship between the San, Khoi and Rooibos?¹

The San and Khoi people are the original knowledge holders to the uses of rooibos. Known scientifically as *aspalathus linearis* but called "rooibos" by the locals, the plant has been used by the San and Khoi for generations as a remedy for a wide range of ailments. The fine, needle-like rooibos leaves are high in antioxidants and caffeine-free. It can relieve allergic symptoms, provide an energy boost and help heal damaged skin. This was confirmed by a traditional knowledge study² the South African government commissioned during 2014.

After spending hours walking through the Cederberg mountains to find optimal plants, the San and Khoi people would harvest them and then chop them into small pieces with axes. After crushing them with stones and then later hammers, the plants would be fermented in heaps and then finally dried in the sun.

Harvesting and processing wild rooibos is a time consuming and difficult task, and for centuries the health benefits of rooibos were enjoyed by the San and Khoi people. Farming and rooibos production was small-scale, and the popularity of the tea was limited to these communities historically. Rooibos remained unknown to the rest of the world until 1772, when the San and Khoi introduced the plant to a Swedish botanist. Although he took some to Europe and wrote about it, the real potential for the plant was not recognised until 1904 when a Russian immigrant to South Africa became interested in rooibos tea and started trading with the San and Khoi people. Through his efforts, rooibos tea quickly became popular throughout South Africa, together with a range of other rooibos health and cosmetic products.

Traditional knowledge and international law

South Africa has a rich cultural and biological heritage and diversity, with an expansive history of linking these through the traditional use of biological resources. Local traditional knowledge of the value and use of biological resources is unique to a culture or society and is passed from generation to generation through word of mouth and cultural rituals. This traditional knowledge is usually built by a group of people living in close contact with nature.

Traditional knowledge, particularly traditional ecological knowledge of an indigenous species, is an important component in the improvement of natural resource management in South Africa and can provide valuable information for the sustainable use and protection of ecosystems and species. This kind of knowledge is developed by local communities through their experiences with natural resources over time.

¹Source: www.wipo.int

²Traditional Knowledge Associated with Rooibos and Honeybush Species in South Africa, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa, 2014

Others

- ABS role play scenario
- The "Living Convention": Compendium of international IPLC rights
- E-Learning modules on ABS and TK
- Project: dissemination and consultation by mobile phone platform (pastoralists BCP)