

# Preservation of traditional knowledge related to plant biodiversity

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Corporations often want to acquire intellectual property rights related to biological resources and traditional knowledge in order to maximize revenue generation. Intellectual property rights equate to exclusive rights over such resources/knowledge, where the original holders of biological resources and related traditional knowledge do not share the profit made from the commercialization of products derived from their resources/knowledge [1].

Biopiracy is the violation of the rights of traditional communities (their way of life is shaped by generations of their ancestors, where cultural, ecological, economic and family customs are based on traditional knowledge, values and social hierarchies) over their biological resources and related knowledge. The implications of biopiracy are both economic and ethical [2]. The exploration of plant biological resources for new commercial purposes is part of global economic and social development. On the other hand, such commercial exploitation is perceived as an insult by many traditional communities, because traditional knowledge for them is sacred and support life.

Relevant scientific indicators indicate a figure of about 250,000 higher plant species, with an estimate of about 80% possible rate of new drug development, with plant screening limited to plant species used by indigenous communities [3].

It is the responsibility of the international community to create a fair system for: accessing, acquiring, maintaining and enforcing intellectual property rights, creating an international regime that will allow holders of traditional knowledge to control their use. International recognition and protection of traditional knowledge would help protect and preserve the environment and manage biodiversity. In addition to legal regulations, international agreements, etc. a very important element is the involvement of people in the so - called „conservation of bioresources“. The participation of the local population and their motivation are very important for the preservation of biodiversity as a national treasure [4]. Given the goal - to enable less developed countries to benefit more from their resources and traditional knowledge, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) prescribes that bioprotection (discovery and commercialization of new products based on biological resources) should be possible only with consent obtained for access to those resources and an obligation to share any benefits with the country rich in those resources [1].

## References:

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