

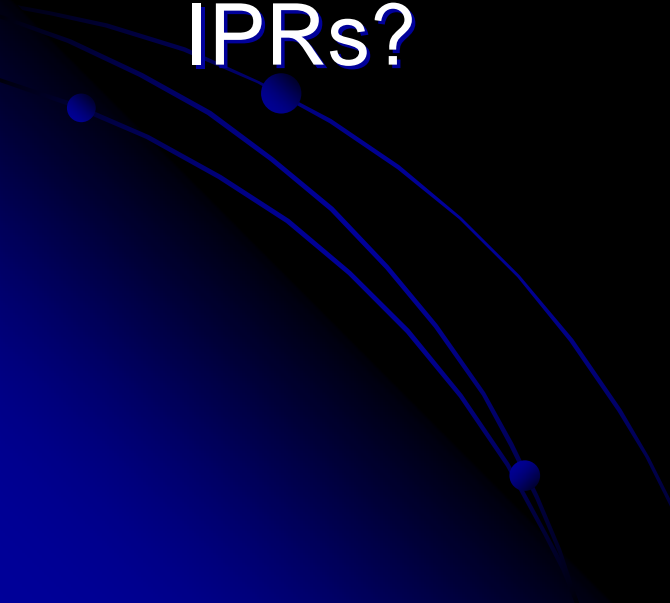
CAPTURING IK

Kazhila Chinsembu

- Molecular Biology...Free University of Brussels
- University of Namibia
- University of Zambia
- ICIPE-PESTNETresource-poor farmers

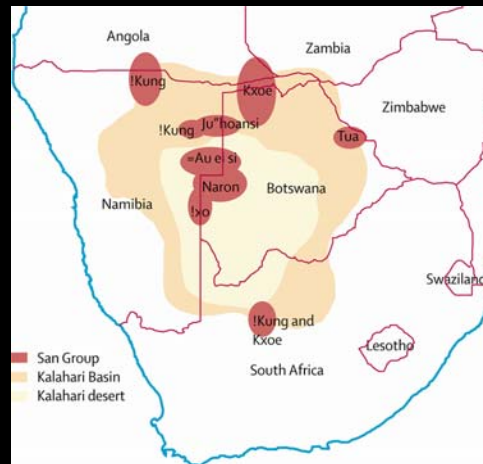


Thanks to FARA, Dr. Mosimege

- “Capturing IK” connotes “Loss”
 - Food security
 - “Respecting IPRs”
 - Should we respect current regimes of IPRs?
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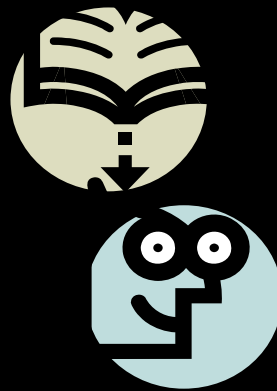
Why IK?

- What we know best must be the starting point
- We cannot go further into the future if we do not go deeper into the past
- Africa has had problems with technology transfer
- Africa is birthplace for humankind... endowed with IK



Knowledge- new currency

- Commercialization of knowledge
- Knowledge is not intangible and abstract
- Knowledge is third type of property...Intellectual property
- Protected by Intellectual Property Rights

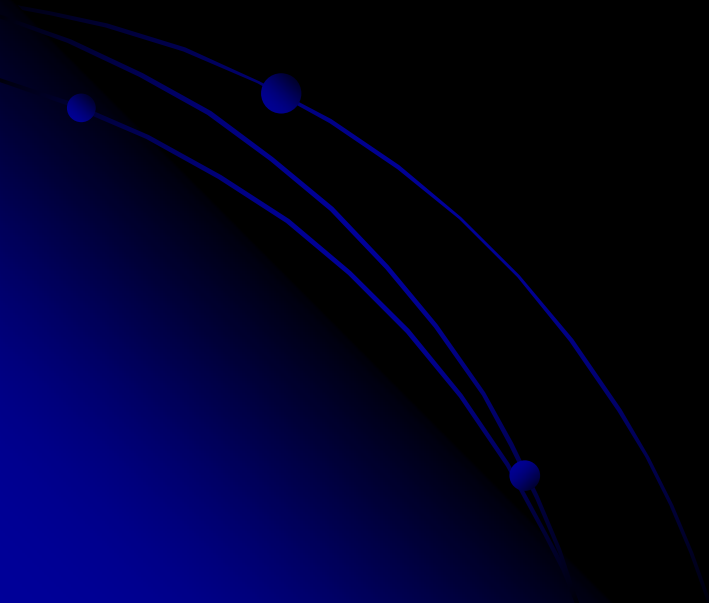


Pandora's Box

- IK was guarded- not patented
- Unique: collective ownership, perpetuity of custody, incremental evolution of applications
- How do benefits reach owners?
- Globalization...Biopiracy, Bioprospecting
- Out-of-Africa model...moral premium
- Ubuntu....in Africa we share

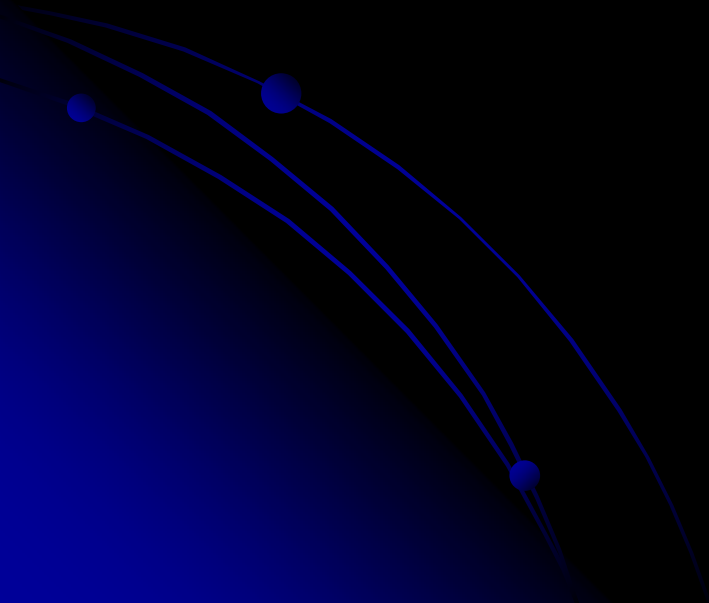
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Should the protection of IK be pursued
within the rubric of international property
law?

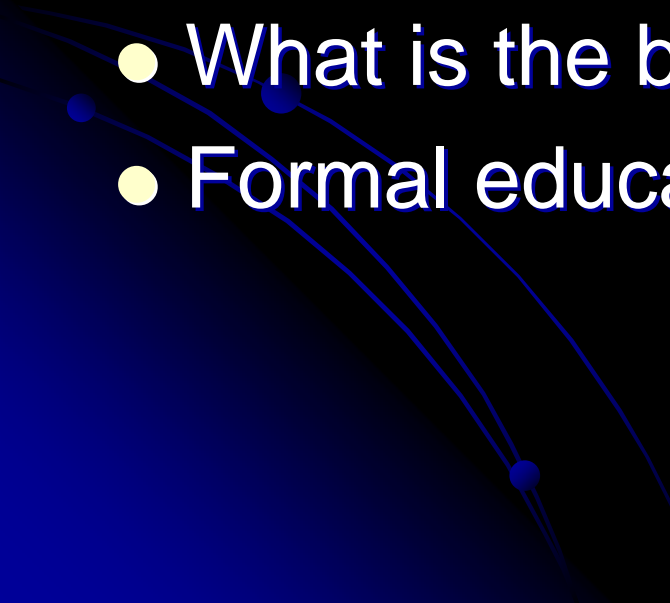


Why bring IK into public domain?

- Validation e.g genetics of beauty
- Education, Innovation and Improvement
- Reform e.g. *Tephrosia vogelii*

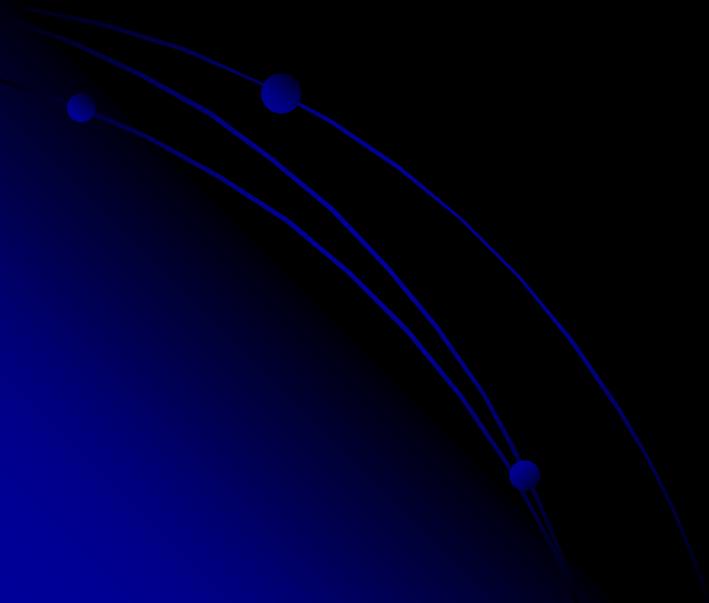


Documentation of IK


- Databases increase biopiracy
 - Databases can be destroyed
 - Lock IK in indigenous languages
 - Indigenous languages are dying away
 - What is the best way to preserve IK?
 - Formal education
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WIPO's IGC

- Controlled by 'recalcitrant states'
- Africa lacks effective biodiplomacy

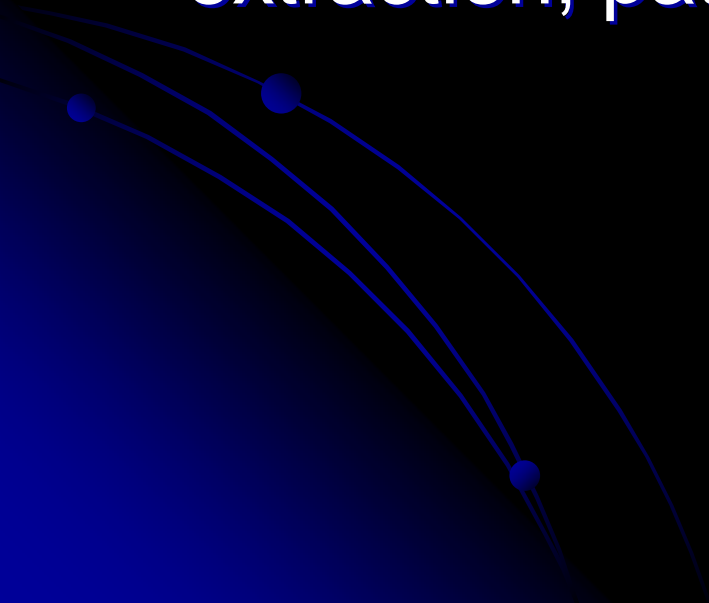


Local Action

- SADC meetings to learn from SA
 - Draft legislation
 - Access and Benefit Sharing draft legislation in Namibia vests ownership of genetic resources into State
 - Participation is critical to ownership
 - New activism by CSOs
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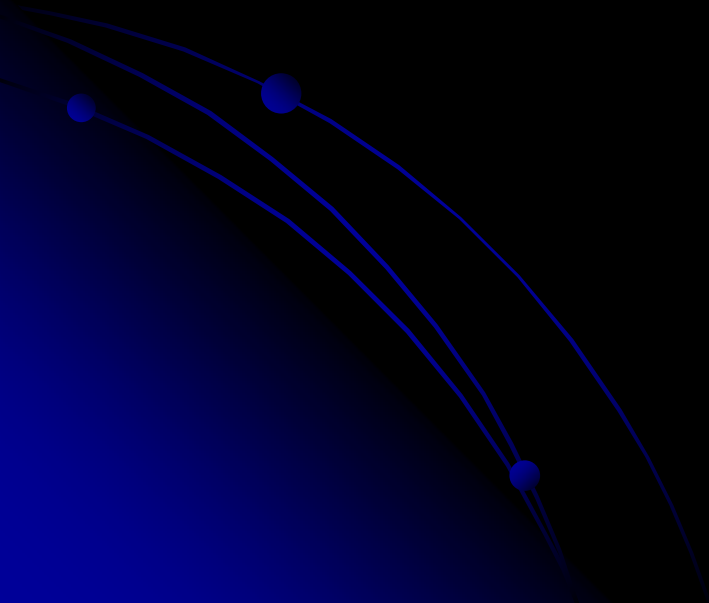
Biocolonialism

Biocolonialism = indigenous peoples' lack of self-determination over genetic resources from their lands mainly because of foreign corporate appropriation, extraction, patenting and commodification.

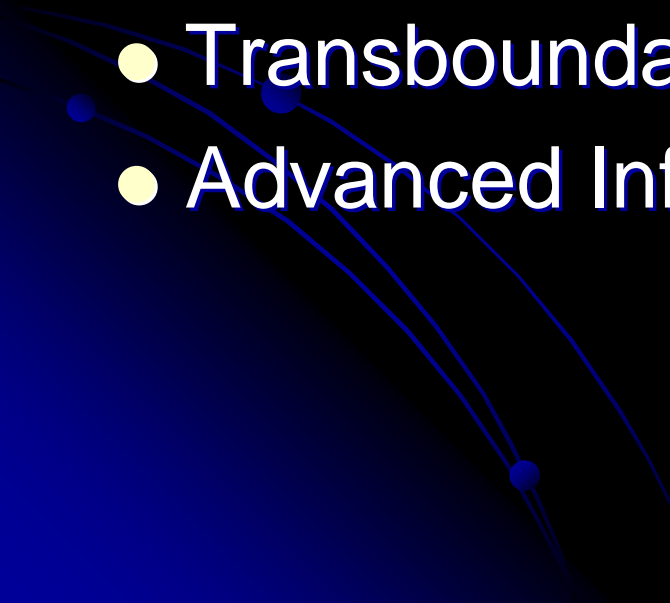


Sealing the loopholes

- Research collaboration MOUs
- Sandwich post grad programs
- Set up own centres of excellence e.g
NEPAD Biosciences network



Biosafety

- Don't test depth of river with both feet
 - Precautionary Principle
 - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
 - Reduce/manage potential risks of GE
 - Transboundary movement
 - Advanced Informed Agreement
- 

Seeds of Conflict

- USA vs EU vs WTO, Zambia
- Ownership: Put seed rights into right hands
- Genetic dispossession will create GM refugees
- Public acceptability... labeling
- Limiting gene flow
- Liability
- Co-existence... Centres of origin
- Generic seed?