

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY *of* ETHNOBIOLOGY



CONSTITUTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY (ISE)

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DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

"Board" or "Board of the ISE"	means and refers to the Officers and Board Members of the ISE.
"Environment"	means and refers to the natural, physical and metaphysical environments obtaining, affecting and relating to Mother Earth, known to scientists as the "Bios".
"Code of Ethics"	means and refers to the ISE Code of Ethics attached as Annex I to this Constitution.
"Ethnobiology" and "Ethnoecology"	refer to the cultural perceptions, human classifications, uses and beliefs about the environment and the Bios. Ethnobiology and Ethnoecology are interdisciplinary and intercultural fields combining such diverse sciences as traditional and ecological agriculture, anthropology, archaeology, botany, ecology, geography, linguistics, human and veterinary medicine, pharmacology, sociology, zoology, and related areas.
"Foundation Act"	means and refers to the resolution to found the ISE.
"General Assembly"	refers to meetings of the Membership during ICEs or as prescribed in the Constitution.
"ICE"	means the International Congress of Ethnobiology to be held every 2 years in accordance with this Constitution.
"ISE"	means and refers to the International Society of Ethnobiology.
"Member"	means either a Founding Member, Member, Honorary Member, Lifetime Member, Corporate Member, or Institutional Member.
"Regional Committees"	means the Regional Committees of the ISE as established or dis-established from time to time in different parts of the world, in accordance with this Constitution.
"Biocultural heritage"	means the cultural heritage (both the tangible and intangible including customary law, folklore, spiritual values, knowledge, innovations and practices) and biological heritage (diversity of genes, varieties, species and ecosystem provisioning, regulating and cultural services) of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities which are often inextricably linked through the interaction between these peoples and nature over time and shaped by their socio-ecological and economic context. This heritage includes the landscape as the spatial dimension in which the evolution of Indigenous biocultural heritage takes place. This heritage is passed on from generation to generation, developed, owned and administered collectively by stakeholder communities according to customary law.

ARTICLE 1.

1.0 Background

1.1 The International Society of Ethnobiology was established on 22 July, 1988, during the First International Congress of Ethnobiology held in Belém, Pará, Brazil.

1.2 The ISE was legally constituted in April, 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

1.3 The ISE is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the research, study, promotion and enhancement of ethnobiology.

1.4 The ISE was incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA in 2000. The Registered Office of the ISE shall be located in Bristol, Vermont or any other locality authorized by the Board to meet the needs of the Society.

ARTICLE 2.

2.0 Vision Statement

2.1 The ISE is committed to achieving a greater understanding of the complex relationships, both past and present that exist within and between human societies and their environments. The Society endeavors to promote a harmonious existence between humankind and the bios for the benefit of future generations. Ethnobiologists recognize that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities are critical to the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity. The vision of the ISE is more fully reflected in its Code of Ethics, to which all Members are bound. The Code of Ethics is found in Annex 1.

ARTICLE 3.

3.0 Objectives and Purposes

3.1 To promote and enhance the study and understanding of ethnobiology and ethnoecology throughout the world.

3.2 To bring together all peoples, including Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities, institutions, peoples' organizations, research institutions, researchers, funding organisations, non-governmental organizations and governmental bodies interested in the development, promotion and enhancement of ethnobiological and ethnoecological studies.

3.3 To establish, maintain, and widely promote a Code of Ethics to direct all dealings with Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities, and their lands, territories or other traditional resources, and all traditional, cultural, intellectual properties and knowledge directly or indirectly associated therewith.

3.4 To enhance and promote the recognition and role of ethnobiologists and ethnoecologists in the inventory, study, research, conservation, protection, and revitalization of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities and their biocultural heritage.

3.5 To promote and conserve the scientific and cultural knowledge of human societies.

3.6 To represent the community of ethnobiologists and ethnoecologists who are members of this society, in national and international fora.

3.7 To promote education, training, and dissemination of ethnobiology and ethnoecology throughout the world.

3.8 To establish and promote the Global Coalition for Bio-Cultural Diversity as an integral part of the ISE to promote the policies, goals, ethics, and activities of the ISE as elaborated in Annex 2.

3.9 Any other objective or purpose designed to advance the above objectives and purposes of the ISE, provided that any such objective or purpose shall not in any way whatsoever derogate from the non-profit status or charitable nature of the ISE.

ARTICLE 4.

4.0 Membership

4.1 Membership of the ISE shall be available to all persons, organizations, and institutions who are interested in the objectives and purposes of the ISE and subscribe to its Code of Ethics.

4.2 Members may belong to one or more of the following categories:

4.2.1 **Founding Members** - are all those who were registered up to and including the third International Congress of Ethnobiology held in Mexico City, Mexico in November 1992.

4.2.2 **Members** - are those who are registered with the ISE, have paid their two-year (biennial) dues, and abide by the Constitution and Code of Ethics.

4.2.3 **Honorary Members** - are those individual Members who are considered by the Board of the ISE to have made an exceptional contribution to ethnobiology, ethnoecology and/or the promotion and protection of biocultural heritage. Nomination for this category of Membership is to be made to the Board of the ISE and confirmed at an Ordinary General Assembly.

4.2.4 **Lifetime Members** – are individual members who have paid a significant one-time membership fee to the Society of an amount determined by the Board (minimum \$500 USD). Under exceptional circumstances, the Board may grant an individual a lifetime membership in recognition of an outstanding in-kind service contribution to the Society. No further membership fees apply to this category for the life of the member.

4.2.5 **Institutional Members** - are those nonprofit organizations that are interested in perpetuating the objectives and purposes of and disseminating information concerning the ISE and have paid a two-year (biennial) institutional membership fee; Application for this category of Membership is to be made to the Board of the ISE.

4.2.6 **Corporate Members** - are incorporated for profit institutions that are interested in perpetuating the objectives and purposes of and disseminating information concerning the ISE and have paid a two-year (biennial) corporate membership fee. Application for this category of Membership is to be made to the Board of the ISE.

4.3 Members of each category (except Lifetime members) must pay two-year (biennial) Membership fees, as proposed by the Board and adopted by the General Assembly. Reduction or waivers of these fees may be applied for by letter to the Board.

4.3.1 The Board shall have the power to waive fees or offer concessions for deserving cases.

4.3.2 The Board encourages in-kind contributions to the Society by members whose fees have been reduced or waived.

4.4 Members in good standing are those individuals, institutions and organizations who have paid fees appropriate to their membership category, and are in compliance with the ISE Code of Ethics and the ISE Constitution.

4.5 Charitable tax receipts shall **NOT** be offered in whole or part for any membership fee.

ARTICLE 5.

5.0 Donations

5.1 Donations may be received from individuals, organizations or institutions to support general operations and/or specific activities, programs, fellowships and awards of the ISE.

5.2 Donations shall be eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

ARTICLE 6.

6.0 Rights, Responsibilities and Meetings of Members

6.1 All Members in good standing are eligible to participate in all meetings, congresses, courses, committee memberships of and in relation to the ISE upon payment of any appropriate fees.

6.2 All Members in good standing are eligible to be elected to the Board, provided that they have attended at least two congresses (or one congress for Regional and Student Representatives) prior to the congress at which they are nominated.

6.3 All Members in good standing have the right to exercise one vote in person and, in the case of institutions or corporations, an authorized representative, on each vote taken during Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies.

6.4 All Members in good standing shall be entitled to:

6.4.1 receive publications of the ISE on payment of an appropriate fee fixed by the Board;

6.4.2 represent the ISE by delegation of the President in consultation with the Board.

ARTICLE 7.

7.0 Ordinary General Assembly of Members

7.1 The Ordinary General Assembly of the Members of the ISE shall be the sovereign decision making body of the ISE.

7.2 An Ordinary General Assembly shall take place every two (2) years during the ICE.

7.2.1 Fees for the ICE shall be set by the Organizing Committee of the ICE and approved by the Board of ISE.

7.2.2 Membership fees shall be paid to the ISE Coordinator on a two-year (biennial) basis.

7.3 The President shall preside over the Ordinary General Assembly.

7.4 A quorum for an Ordinary General Assembly shall be not less than 30 voting Members. New Members of the ISE are eligible to vote immediately after applying for membership and payment of registration fees.

7.5 Voting at an Ordinary General Assembly shall be by simple majority (51%) of votes cast by those Members present.

7.6 The business of the Ordinary General Assembly shall include:

7.6.1 election of the Board;

7.6.2 discussion and vote on the date and venue of the next ICE;

7.6.3 discussion and vote on the promotion or participation of the ISE in other local, national or international meetings, assemblies or congresses;

7.6.4 discussion and vote on the creation, suspension, dis-establishment or amalgamation of Regional Committees as proposed by the Board;

7.6.5 discussion and vote on any recommendations received from the Board in relation to complaints concerning alleged breaches of the Constitution and the Code of Ethics by Members;

7.6.6 approval of the annual financial report;

7.6.7 discussion and vote on whether or not an audit of financial accounts is required;

7.6.8 other items as determined by the Board prior to any ICE.

ARTICLE 8.

8.0 Extraordinary General Assembly

8.1 The purpose of an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be to deliberate and decide on any matters of an urgent or special nature that cannot await the next following Ordinary General Assembly.

8.2 An Extraordinary General Assembly may be called by the Board at any time, or on written request to the Board by sixty (60) Members to be received by the Board at least six (6) months prior to the proposed date of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

8.2.1 Any written request for an Extraordinary General Meeting shall include:

(a) an outline of the reasons for calling the meeting;

(b) suggestions for an appropriate venue for holding the meeting.

(c) proposed dates for the meeting;

(d) suggestions for sourcing funding for participation at the meeting.

8.2.2 The Board shall use their best endeavors to convene any Extraordinary General Meeting that has been validly called. In the event that despite their best endeavors the Board is unable to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly (for example through lack of funding) then the issues set out in the written request for the Extraordinary General Assembly shall be deferred and dealt with at the next Ordinary General Meeting of the ISE.

8.3 A quorum for an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be thirty (30) Members from no less than fifteen (15) different countries.

ARTICLE 9.

9.0 Board of the ISE

9.1 The affairs of the ISE are to be managed by a Board to be elected by the Ordinary General Assembly.

9.2 Ideally the Board should consist of no more than two (2) Members from a single country and should reflect the broadest possible national diversity.

9.3 Ideally the Board should be gender-balanced.

9.3.1 To qualify for nomination, candidates must be members in good standing and have attended two prior Congresses, except for Regional Representatives and Student Representatives who must have attended one prior Congress.

9.3.2 To stand for nomination, nominees must have confirmed their eligibility in writing with the ISE coordinator in advance of the election or appointment.

9.3.3 Appointed officer positions are made in advance by the outgoing Board and ratified by the ISE members at the Ordinary General Assembly.

9.4 The Board of the ISE consists of the following elected and appointed officers:

- (a) President (elected);
- (b) President Elect, who serves as Vice-President (elected);
- (c) Secretary (elected);
- (d) Treasurer (elected);
- (e) five (5) Regional Representatives (elected), one each from the following regions: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania;
- (f) immediate Past President (appointed);
- (g) Student Representative (appointed, non-voting);
- (h) Director of the Global Coalition for Bio-Cultural Diversity (appointed);
- (i) Chair of the Ethics Committee (appointed).

9.5 Ex-Officio Members of the Board include:

- (a) Chair of the current Organizing Committee for the upcoming ICE;
- (b) Chair of the ICE Organizing Committee for the immediate past ICE;
- (c) former Presidents of the ISE;
- (d) Editor of the Society Journal.

9.6 A Board Member's term of appointment shall coincide with the period between consecutive ICEs.

9.7 Elections of the Board shall be held at an Ordinary General Assembly.

9.7.1 Nominations for election of officers will be called for up until one (1) month prior to the date of commencement of the ICE. A statement of candidacy and confirmation of eligibility from each nominee will be made available to the ISE membership.

9.7.2 On the first day of each ICE, the Board will make a public announcement of elections and re-open the call for nominations for any position that only has one valid nominee or no nominee. All nominees shall provide a brief statement of candidacy and confirmation of eligibility at the first Ordinary General Assembly.

9.7.3 Nominations will be announced, discussed, and further nominations accepted for any position that does not yet have a nominee, at the first Ordinary General Assembly of each ICE.

9.7.4 In the event that a Board position has no eligible nominee, the officer will be appointed by the outgoing Board and ratified by the members during the second Ordinary General Assembly. If no appointment can be made at the second General Assembly, the officer will be appointed by the incoming Board at the earliest possible date following the second General Assembly and the members shall be notified.

9.8 Voting for Officers and Board Members will be by a show of hands, electronic or oral ballot at the second Ordinary General Assembly of each ICE, unless a secret ballot is requested by at least one Member.

9.8.1 The person with the most votes for each office shall be declared elected to the position. In the event of two or more nominees receiving the same number of votes for the same position, the vote for that office shall be taken again until a clear winner is found.

9.8.2 If, for any reason, an Ordinary General Assembly does not take place, the election will be conducted by postal ballot and electronic ballot, at the time when the Ordinary General Assembly should have been held.

9.9 The office of a Board Member shall become vacant if:

9.9.1 he or she resigns;

9.9.2 he or she dies;

9.9.3 he or she is removed with reason by a majority vote of Members at an Ordinary General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly. In any such case the Board Member concerned will be given notice

prior to the meeting setting out the reasons for his or her proposed removal and an opportunity will be provided to address the Members prior to the vote being taken.

9.9.4 if he or she fails to perform duties.

9.10. Where a Board member fails to perform his or her duties he/she shall be given notice in writing of the failure to perform his/her duties and what is required to remedy such failure. Any written notice shall be supported by a majority of the Board. If the failure is not remedied or a satisfactory reason for failing to perform his/her duties is not provided by the Board member concerned within 21 working days, then the Board may vote by majority to remove the Board member concerned. Three successive written notices to a Board member shall result in automatic dismissal of that Board member.

9.11 At-large Board Members or Officers cannot hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms unless authorized by the Ordinary General Assembly.

9.12 Appointment to any vacancy in the membership of the Board shall be made by the continuing Board Members with any such interim appointment to be ratified or otherwise determined at the next Ordinary General Assembly of the ISE.

ARTICLE 10.

10.0 Duties of the Board

10.1 To represent the community of ethnobiologists and ethnoecologists affiliated with the ISE in national and international fora in ways consistent with the ISE constitution and Code of Ethics.

10.2 To convene meetings, congresses and conferences on behalf of the ISE.

10.3 To assist and advise private organizations, non-governmental organizations and government organizations and such other persons or bodies in the study and research of ethnobiology and ethnoecology.

10.4 To seek, accept and receive donations, subsidies, grants, endowments, gifts, legacies and bequests, either in money or in kind or partly in money and partly in kind, on behalf of the ISE for all or any of the objects and purposes of the ISE.

10.5 To collaborate with any person, group, organization that wishes to further the objectives and purposes of the ISE.

10.6 To promote awareness of the activities and objectives of the ISE through appropriate means.

10.7 To print, publish, distribute and sell any books, articles, monographs, pictures, maps, electronic mail, facsimile or other works that promote ethnobiology and ethnoecology.

10.8 To take appropriate action on allegations and complaints made to the Ethics Committee concerning any alleged breach of this Constitution and/or the ISE Code of Ethics.

10.8.1 To make recommendations to the Ordinary General Assembly concerning actions (if any) to be taken.

10.8.2 The Board may recommend suspension or termination of Membership, but only after the person(s) against whom the complaint has been made is given opportunity to respond to the allegations.

10.9 To facilitate the publication and dissemination of the Proceedings of the ICEs and other relevant documents, occasional papers, and journals.

10.10 To do all such other things as, in the opinion of the Board, may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects or purposes for the exercise of any of the foregoing powers.

ARTICLE 11.

11.0 Proceedings of the Board

11.1 The Board of the ISE shall be responsible for the management for all the affairs of the ISE and may exercise all the powers and authorities conferred under this Constitution.

11.2 The Board Members shall meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.

11.3 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Board shall be four (4).

11.4 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

11.5 In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside and may exercise the powers of the President at any meeting.

11.6 If both the President and Vice-President are absent then the Board Members present shall elect one of their Members to act as Chair of the meeting.

11.7 Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.

11.8 The President votes only to break a tie vote.

11.9 The responsibilities of the Board include, but are not limited to:

11.9.1 legal representation of the ISE;

11.9.2 carrying out the provisions of this Constitution;

11.9.3 directing the affairs of the ISE;

11.9.4 making recommendations to the General Assembly on the creation, suspension, termination, or fusion of Committees;

11.9.5 deciding on the participation of the ISE in meetings and activities with other organizations;

11.9.6 maintaining contact and collaborating with organizations having similar or related objects and purposes to those of the ISE;

11.9.7 preparing and submitting to the Ordinary General Assembly the yearly officers' reports;

11.9.8 preparing and submitting to the Ordinary General Assembly the annual financial and committee reports;

11.9.9 deciding on whether to appoint an auditor for the annual financial statements;

11.9.10 appointing of Editor(s) for ISE publications;

11.9.11 appointing of Committees to assist the work of the Board:

(a) The Chair of each Committee shall be a Board Member, who may recruit, for the purposes of consultation advice or other kinds of assistance, persons interested in achieving the Committee objectives.

(b) Any such Committee shall be competent to make inquiries or to superintend, or transact any business under the sanction and guidance of the Board of the ISE.

11.9.12 there shall be no formal meetings without a Board Member being present;

11.9.13 questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by majority of votes, and the Chair does not vote except in the case of a tie;

11.9.14 committees shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Ethics

(b) Membership

(c) Fund Raising

(d) Training and Education

(e) Communication/News/Dissemination

(f) Congress Venue

(g) Publications

(h) Student Prize

11.9.15 A resolution in writing (including facsimile transcript or electronic mail) signed or verified by a quorum of Board Members shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form, each signed or verified by one or more Board Members.

11.9.16 All proceedings of the Board and meetings of Committees shall be recorded and disseminated by the Secretary or ISE Coordinator to all Board Members.

11.10 The responsibilities of the **President** shall include but are not limited to:

11.10.1 convening and presiding at meetings of the Board;

11.10.2 convening and presiding at Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies;

11.11 The **Vice-President** shall substitute for the President in the absence of the President.

11.12 The **Secretary** shall be responsible for supporting and working with the ISE Coordinator in:

11.12.1 preparing and distributing to the Board in a timely fashion the minutes of the proceedings of the Board Members meetings and of the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assemblies;

11.12.2 receiving, filing and arranging for inward and outward correspondence of the ISE;

11.12.3 substituting for the President and Vice-President in the case that either are unable or prevented from meeting their commitments.

11.13 The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for supporting and working with the ISE Coordinator in:

11.13.1 receiving, acknowledging and accounting for the annual Membership fees;

11.13.2 managing the ISE's funds and payment of accounts;

11.13.3 preparing the annual financial report to the Ordinary General Assembly;

11.13.4 receiving and giving receipts for all legacies, donations, subscriptions or other monies bequeath, made, given or leant to the ISE and every such receipt shall be an effective discharge for the money or other property so received.

11.14 The duties of the **Immediate Past President** include:

11.14.1 duties as prescribed by the Board.

11.15 The duties of the **Director of the Global Coalition** include:

11.15.1 collaborating with the **Ethics Chair** in constituting and co-chairing of the Ethics Committee;

11.15.2 other duties as required to effectively implement the goals of the Global Coalition as outlined in the Kunming Action Plan (see Annex 2);

11.15.3 other duties as prescribed by the Board.

11.16 Duties of **At-Large Board Members** include:

11.16.1 chairing of Committees as assigned by the President or the Board;

11.16.2 other duties as prescribed by the Board.

11.17 Duties of **Ex-Officio Members** include:

11.17.1 providing advice to the Board;

11.17.2 chairing Committees as assigned by the President or the Board;

11.17.3 other duties as prescribed by the Board.

11.18 The President cannot serve simultaneously as president of the ISE and Organizing Chair of the ICE.

11.19 Officers and At-Large Board Members have one vote each; Ex-Officio members are non-voting Members

11.20 No part of the income or property of the ISE shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to any Board Member, provided that, in accordance with the State of Georgia (U.S.A.) Law, nothing herein contained shall preclude any reasonable payment to a Board Member or any other person for services rendered or for goods supplied or by way of interest on any Board Member or any other person.

11.21 Notices requiring a response under this constitution may be sent in writing to the last known postal address of the person or organization concerned. Notices may also be sent by fax transmission or by email in addition to post. Service can be affected by one or all of these means as required.

ARTICLE 12.

12.0 Indemnity

12.1 Each Board Member shall be liable for any loss directly attributable to that Board Members own dishonesty or willful breach of trust or for any complicity in a breach of trust by any other Board Member.

12.2 Subject to Article 11.1, the Board Members of the ISE shall be absolutely indemnified out of the property and funds of the ISE for all liabilities incurred by the Board Member in the exercise or attempted exercise of any trust, power, authority or discretion vested in the Board Member and shall have a lien and may use monies forming part of the property and funds of the ISE in relation to discharging any such liability.

ARTICLE 13.

13.0 Finance

13.1 The monies of the ISE shall be deposited in the name of the organization in such bank or banks, or trust company or trust companies, as the Board Members shall designate from time to time.

13.2 Checks on the bank account(s) and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by the ISE Coordinator and one other Member authorized by resolution of the Board Members.

13.3 The monies of the ISE shall be fully utilized towards promoting and achieving the objects of the ISE as set out in Article 3.

13.4 The financial year of the ISE shall end on the 31st day of March in each year.

13.5 The accounts of the Board of the ISE may be audited by a chartered accountant who shall not be a Member of the Board provided that the Board may decide not to appoint an auditor in any year.

ARTICLE 14.

14.0 The Seal/Logo

14.1 There shall be a common logo of the ISE. The ISE Coordinator shall have the safe custody of the common logo. Members of the Ordinary General Assembly may from time to time by resolution, change, alter, or adopt any new logo as they deem proper.

ARTICLE 15.

15.0 Books and Records

15.1 The Board of the ISE shall keep accurate records of its assets and liabilities and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board of the ISE and of meetings of the General Assemblies.

15.2 All books and registers of the ISE shall be written in English.

15.3 Translations of publications into other languages shall be encouraged.

ARTICLE 16.

16.0 Regional Committees

16.1 The ISE may, by proposal of the Board of the ISE, establish Regional Committees in any place and country of the world. Each such Regional Committee shall be regulated by its own Constitution and bylaws provided that no such Constitution or set of bylaws shall be inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the Constitution and Code of Ethics of the ISE.

16.2 Regional Committees must have and maintain at all times not less than twenty (20) founder or ordinary Members of the ISE.

16.3 The Constitution or bylaws of a Regional Committee must be approved by a meeting of the general assembly of Members.

16.4 A Regional Committee may request from the Board of the ISE some administrative time and support from the ISE Coordinator to assist the Regional Committee in meeting its administration needs.

16.5 Any Regional Committee claiming administrative time and support from the ISE Coordinator shall provide a complete list of names of founder and ordinary Members in respect of whom a claim is being made and together with proof that their annual Membership fees have been paid for the relevant year.

16.6 Each Regional Committee, through its elected offices and/or legal representative, shall in each year provide a written report to the President of the ISE on that Regional Committee's activities for the year including:

- (a) number of meetings held;
- (b) resolutions passed;
- (c) new Members admitted;
- (d) financial statement of assets and liabilities;
- (e) statement of Income and Expenditure;
- (f) list of Members who have paid and those who have not paid annual Membership fees.

16.7 The General Assembly may, on the recommendation of the Board of the ISE vote to suspend, extinguish, amalgamate or otherwise determine any Regional Committee(s) as the General Assembly may decide. Any recommendation of the Board of the ISE to the General Assembly in relation to a

Regional Committee shall be circulated among Members at least two (2) days prior to a decision being made by the General Assembly on the future role and status of the Regional Committee concerned.

ARTICLE 17.

17.0 Alternations to Constitution

17.1 The rules of this Constitution may be modified or amended by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) vote of Members present and voting at an Ordinary General Assembly.

ARTICLE 18.

18.0 Dissolution of the ISE

18.1 The ISE may be dissolved by a decision of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly called especially for that purpose.

18.2 In the event of the ISE being dissolved, any surplus assets after payment of the ISE's liabilities (if any) shall be applied towards the objectives of the ISE.

18.3 Any such decision for disbursement of surplus assets shall be made by the Board incumbent at the date immediately preceding a resolution to dissolve or wind up the ISE.

ANNEX 1: ISE CODE OF ETHICS (2006)

The Code of Ethics of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) provides a framework for decision-making and conduct for ethnobiological research and related activities. This Code of Ethics has its origins in the Declaration of Belém agreed upon in 1988 at the Founding of the International Society of Ethnobiology (in Belém, Brazil). It has been developed over the course of more than a decade and is the culmination of a series of consensus-based fora and discussion processes involving the ISE Membership.

The Code of Ethics is comprised of four parts: (i) Preamble, (ii) Purpose, (ii) Principles, and (iv) Practical Guidelines. The Code of Ethics reflects the vision of the ISE as stated in Article 2.0:

The ISE is committed to achieving a greater understanding of the complex relationships, both past and present that exist within and between human societies and their environments. The Society endeavors to promote a harmonious existence between humankind and the Bios for the benefit of future generations. Ethnobiologists recognize that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities are critical to the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity.

All Members of the ISE are bound in good faith to abide by the Code of Ethics as a condition of membership.

PREAMBLE

The concept of 'mindfulness' is an important value embedded in this Code, which invokes an obligation to be fully aware of one's knowing and unknowing, doing and undoing, action and inaction.

It is acknowledged that much research has been undertaken in the past without the sanction or prior informed consent of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities and that such research has caused harm and adversely impacted their rights and responsibilities related to biocultural heritage¹.

The ISE is committed to working in genuine partnership and collaboration with Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities to avoid perpetuating these past injustices and build towards developing positive, beneficial and harmonious relationships in the field of ethnobiology.

The ISE recognises that culture and language are intrinsically connected to land and territory, and cultural and linguistic diversity are inextricably linked to biological diversity. Therefore, the ISE recognizes the responsibilities and rights of Indigenous, traditional and local peoples to the preservation and continued development of their cultures and languages and to the control of their lands, territories and traditional resources as key to the perpetuation of all forms of diversity on Earth.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of this Code of Ethics is to facilitate establishing ethical and equitable relationships:

- i. to optimise the positive outcomes and reduce as much as possible the adverse effects of research (in all its forms, including applied research and development work) and related activities of ethnobiologists that can disrupt or disenfranchise Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local

¹ Biocultural heritage is the cultural heritage (both the tangible and intangible including customary law, folklore, spiritual values, knowledge, innovations and practices) and biological heritage (diversity of genes, varieties, species and ecosystem provisioning, regulating, and cultural services) of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities, which often are inextricably linked through the interaction between peoples and nature over time and shaped by their socio-ecological and economic context. This heritage includes the landscape as the spatial dimension in which the evolution of Indigenous biocultural heritage takes place. This heritage is passed on from generation to generation, developed, owned and administered collectively by stakeholder communities according to customary law.

communities from their customary and chosen lifestyles; and

- ii. to provide a set of principles and practices to govern the conduct of all Members of the ISE who are involved in or proposing to be involved in research in all its forms, especially that concerning collation and use of traditional knowledge or collections of flora, fauna, or any other element of biocultural heritage found on community lands or territories.

The ISE recognises, supports and prioritises the efforts of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities to undertake and own their research, collections, images, recordings, databases and publications. This Code of Ethics is intended to enfranchise Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities conducting research within their own society, for their own use.

This Code of Ethics also serves to guide ethnobiologists and other researchers, business leaders, policy makers, governments, non-government organisations, academic institutions, funding agencies and others seeking meaningful partnerships with Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities and thus to avoid the perpetuation of past injustices to these peoples. The ISE recognises that, for such partnerships to succeed, all relevant research activities (i.e., planning, implementation, analysis, reporting, and application of results) must be collaborative. Consideration must be given to the needs of all humanity, and to the maintenance of robust scientific standards, whilst recognizing and respecting the cultural integrity of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities.

A commitment to meaningful collaboration and reciprocal responsibility by all parties is needed to achieve the purpose of this Code of Ethics and the objectives of the ISE.

This Code of Ethics recognizes and honors traditional and customary laws, protocols, and methodologies extant within the communities where collaborative research is proposed. It should enable but not override such community-level processes and decision-making structures. It should facilitate the development of community-centered, mutually-negotiated research agreements that serve to strengthen community goals.

PRINCIPLES

The Principles of this Code embrace, support, and embody the concept and implementation of traditional resource rights² as articulated in established principles and practices of international instruments and declarations including, but not limited to, those documents referred to in Annex 2 of the ISE Constitution. The Principles also facilitate compliance with the standards set by national and international law and policy and customary practice. The following Principles are the fundamental assumptions that form this Code of Ethics.

1. Principle of Prior Rights and Responsibilities

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities have prior, proprietary rights over, interests in and cultural responsibilities for all air, land, and waterways, and the natural resources within them that these peoples have traditionally inhabited or used, together with all knowledge, intellectual property and traditional resource rights associated with such resources and their use.

2. Principle of Self-Determination

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities have a right

² Traditional resources rights is defined by Posey and Dutfield (1996:3) as follows: "The term 'traditional' refers to the cherished practices, beliefs, customs, knowledge and cultural heritage of indigenous and local communities who live in close association with the Earth; 'resource' is used in its broadest sense to mean all knowledge and technology, esthetic and spiritual qualities, tangible and intangible sources that together, are deemed by local communities to be necessary to ensure healthy and fulfilling lifestyles for present and future generations; and 'rights' refers to the basic inalienable guarantee to all human beings and the collective entities in which they choose to participate of the necessities to achieve and maintain the dignity and well-being of themselves, their predecessors, and their descendants."

to self-determination (or local determination for traditional and local communities) and that researchers and associated organisations will acknowledge and respect such rights in their dealings with these peoples and their communities.

3. Principle of Inalienability

This principle recognises the inalienable rights of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities in relation to their traditional territories and the natural resources (including biological and genetic resources) within them and associated traditional knowledge. These rights are collective by nature but can include individual rights. It shall be for Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities to determine for themselves the nature, scope and alienability of their respective resource rights regimes.

4. Principle of Traditional Guardianship

This principle recognises the holistic interconnectedness of humanity with the ecosystems of our Sacred Earth and the obligation and responsibility of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities to preserve and maintain their role as traditional guardians of these ecosystems through the maintenance of their cultures, identities, languages, mythologies, spiritual beliefs and customary laws and practices, according to the right of self-determination.

5. Principle of Active Participation

This principle recognises the crucial importance of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities to actively participate in all phases of research and related activities from inception to completion, as well as in application of research results. Active participation includes collaboration on research design to address local needs and priorities, and prior review of results before publication or dissemination to ensure accuracy of information and adherence to the standards represented by this Code of Ethics.

6. Principle of Full Disclosure

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities are entitled to be fully informed about the nature, scope and ultimate purpose of the proposed research (including objective, methodology, data collection, and the dissemination and application of results). This information is to be given in forms that are understood and useful at a local level and in a manner that takes into consideration the body of knowledge, cultural preferences and modes of transmission of these peoples and communities.

7. Principle of Educated Prior Informed Consent

Educated prior informed consent must be established before any research is undertaken, at individual and collective levels, as determined by community governance structures. Prior informed consent is recognised as an ongoing process that is based on relationship and maintained throughout all phases of research. This principle recognises that prior informed consent requires an educative process that employs bilingual and intercultural education methods and tools, as appropriate, to ensure understanding by all parties involved. Establishing prior informed consent also presumes that all directly affected communities will be provided complete information in an understandable form regarding the purpose and nature of the proposed programme, project, study or activities, the probable results and implications, including all reasonably foreseeable benefits and risks of harm (be they tangible or intangible) to the affected communities. Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities have the right to make decisions on any programme, project, study or activities that directly affect them. In cases where the intentions of proposed research or related activities are not consistent with the interests of these peoples, societies or communities, they have a right to say no.

8. Principle of Confidentiality

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities, at their sole discretion, have the right to exclude from publication and/or to have kept confidential any information concerning their culture, identity, language, traditions, mythologies, spiritual beliefs or genomics. Parties to the research have a responsibility to be aware of and comply with local systems for management of knowledge and local innovation, especially as related to sacred and secret knowledge. Furthermore, such

confidentiality shall be guaranteed by researchers and other potential users. Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities also have the rights to privacy and anonymity, at their discretion.

9. Principle of Respect

This principle recognises the necessity for researchers to respect the integrity, morality and spirituality of the culture, traditions and relationships of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities with their worlds.

10. Principle of Active Protection

This principle recognises the importance of researchers taking active measures to protect and to enhance the relationships of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities with their environment and thereby promote the maintenance of cultural and biological diversity.

11. Principle of Precaution

This principle acknowledges the complexity of interactions between cultural and biological communities, and thus the inherent uncertainty of effects due to ethnobiological and other research. The precautionary principle advocates taking proactive, anticipatory action to identify and to prevent biological or cultural harms resulting from research activities or outcomes, even if cause-and-effect relationships have not yet been scientifically proven. The prediction and assessment of such biological and cultural harms must include local criteria and indicators, thus must fully involve indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities. This also includes a responsibility to avoid the imposition of external or foreign conceptions and standards.

12. Principle of Reciprocity, Mutual Benefit and Equitable Sharing

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities are entitled to share in and benefit from tangible and intangible processes, results and outcomes that accrue directly or indirectly and over the shorter and longer term for ethnobiological research and related activities that involve their knowledge and resources. Mutual benefit and equitable sharing will occur in ways that are culturally appropriate and consistent with the wishes of the community involved.

13. Principle of Supporting Indigenous Research

This principle recognizes and supports the efforts of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities in undertaking their own research based on their own epistemologies and methodologies, in creating their own knowledge-sharing mechanisms, and in utilising their own collections and databases in accordance with their self-defined needs. Capacity-building, training exchanges and technology transfer for communities and local institutions to enable these activities should be included in research, development and co-management activities to the greatest extent possible.

14. Principle of The Dynamic Interactive Cycle

This principle recognises that research and related activities should not be initiated unless there is reasonable assurance that all stages can be completed from (a) preparation and evaluation, to (b) full implementation, to (c) evaluation, dissemination and return of results to the communities in comprehensible and locally appropriate forms, to (d) training and education as an integral part of the project, including practical application of results. Thus, all projects must be seen as cycles of continuous and on-going communication and interaction.

15. Principle of Remedial Action

This principle recognises that every effort will be made to avoid any adverse consequences to Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities from research and related activities and outcomes. Notwithstanding the application of standards set out by this Code of Ethics, should any such adverse consequence occur, discussion will be had with the local peoples or community concerned to decide on what remedial action may be necessary to redress or mitigate adverse consequences. Any such remedial action may include restitution, where appropriate and agreed.

16. Principle of Acknowledgement and Due Credit

This principle recognises that Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities must be acknowledged in accordance with their preference and given due credit in all agreed publications and other forms of dissemination for their tangible and intangible contributions to research activities. Co-authorship should be considered when appropriate. Acknowledgement and due credit to Indigenous peoples, traditional societies and local communities extend equally to secondary or downstream uses and applications and researchers will act in good faith to ensure the connections to original sources of knowledge and resources are maintained in the public record.

17. Principle of Diligence

This principle recognises that researchers are expected to have a working understanding of the local context prior to entering into research relationships with a community. This understanding includes knowledge of and willingness to comply with local governance systems, cultural laws and protocols, social customs and etiquette. Researchers are expected to conduct research in the local language to the degree possible, which may involve language fluency or employment of interpreters.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are intended as a practical application of the preceding Principles. Recognising that this Code of Ethics is a living document that needs to adapt over time to meet changing understandings and circumstances, if guidelines have not yet been articulated for a given situation, the Principles should be used as the reference point for developing appropriate practices.

Similarly, it is recognized that Indigenous, traditional or local peoples conducting research within their own communities, for their own uses, may need to comply with their own cultural protocols and practices. In the event of inconsistency between such local requirements and these guidelines, all parties involved will commit to work collaboratively to develop appropriate practices.

The Practical Guidelines apply to any and all research, collections, databases, publications, images, audio or video recordings, or other products of research and related activities undertaken.

1. Prior to undertaking any research activities, a good understanding of the local community institution(s) with relevant authority and their interest in the research to be undertaken, as well as knowledge of cultural protocols of the community shall be developed. A thorough effort shall be made in good faith to enhance such understandings through ongoing communication and active participation throughout the duration of the research process.
2. Educated prior informed consent must be established prior to undertaking any research activities. Such consent is ideally represented in writing and/or tape recording, uses language and format that are clearly understood by all parties to the research, and is developed with the persons or deliberating bodies identified as the most representative authorities from each potentially affected community.
3. As a component of educated prior informed consent, there will be full disclosure to potentially affected communities and mechanisms to ensure mutual understanding of the following, based on the reasonably foreseeable effects:
 - a. The full range of potential benefits (tangible and intangible) to the communities, researchers and any other parties involved;
 - b. The extent of reasonably foreseeable harms (tangible and intangible) to such communities;
 - c. All relevant affiliations of the individual(s) or organization(s) seeking to undertake the activities, including where appropriate the contact information of institutional research ethics boards and copies of ethics board approvals for research;
 - d. All sponsors of the individual(s) or organization(s) involved in the undertaking of the activities.
 - e. Any intent to commercialise outcomes of the activities, or foreseeable commercial potential that may be of interest to the parties involved in the project, and/or to third parties who may access project

outcomes directly (e.g., by contacting researchers or communities) or indirectly (e.g., through the published literature).

4. Prior to undertaking research activities, the following must be ensured by research proponents:
 - a. Full communication and consultation has been undertaken with potentially affected communities to develop the terms of the research in a way that complies with the Principles.
 - b. Approval is granted in the manner defined by the local governance system of each affected community.
 - c. Permissions and approvals have been granted from government as well as other local and national authorities, as required by local, national or international law and policy.

5. All persons and organizations undertaking research activities shall do so throughout in good faith, acting in accordance with, and with due respect for, the cultural norms and dignity of all potentially affected communities, and with a commitment that collecting specimens and information, whether of a zoological, botanical, mineral or cultural nature, and compiling data or publishing information thereon, means doing so only in the holistic context, respectful of norms and belief systems of the relevant communities. This includes supporting or creating provenance mechanisms to ensure collections are clearly traceable to their origins for purposes of due credit and acknowledgement, establishing “prior art” in the event of future ownership claims, and facilitating a re-consent process to develop new mutually-agreed terms for further use or applications of collections or derivatives of collections.

Researchers are encouraged to register collected information in local databases and registries where they exist, and explore mechanisms such as community certificates of origin linked to databases. Researchers are encouraged to support and build capacity for community-based data management systems to the extent possible.

Any intellectual property ownership claim or application related to the knowledge or associated resources from the collaboration research should not work against the cultural integrity or livelihood of communities involved.

6. Mutually-agreed terms and conditions of the research shall be set out in an agreement that uses language and format clearly understandable to all parties. The agreement will address and adhere to the following standards:
 - a. Will be represented in writing and/or tape recording if permitted by the community, using local language whenever possible. If writing or tape-recording are culturally prohibited, the parties shall work in collaboration to find an acceptable alternative form of documenting the terms of the agreement.
 - b. Will be made with each potentially affected community after full disclosure, consultation, and establishment of educated prior informed consent regarding mutual benefit and equitable sharing, compensation, remedial action and any other issues arising between parties to the research.
 - c. Will address the elements outlined in (6b) above as related to all foreseeable uses and property ownership issues of the research outcomes, including derivative forms they may take such as biological and other samples, photos, films, videotapes, audiotapes, public broadcasts, translations, communications through the electronic media, including the internet. This includes clear agreement on rights and conditions related to who holds, maintains, uses, controls, owns, and has rights to the research processes, data, and outcomes (direct and indirect).
 - d. Will specify attribution, credit, authorship, co-authorship, and due acknowledgement for all contributors to the research processes and outcomes, recognizing and valuing academic as well as cultural and local expertises;
 - e. Will specify how and in what forms the resulting information and outcomes shall be shared with each affected community, and ensure that access and forms are appropriate and acceptable to that community. Community data and information management systems, such as local registries and databases, shall be supported to the greatest extent possible.

- f. Will represent what understandings have been reached regarding what is potentially sacred, secret or confidential and how such will be treated and communicated, if at all, within and beyond the direct parties to the research.
7. Objectives, conditions and mutually-agreed terms should be totally revealed and agreed to by all parties prior to the initiation of research activities. It is recognised that collaborative research, by design, may be iterative, emergent and require modifications or adaptations. When such is the case, these changes shall be brought to the attention of and agreed to by all parties to the research.
8. All members of the ISE or affiliated organizations of ISE shall respect and comply with moratoriums by communities and countries on collection of information or materials that they would otherwise intend to include in their research, unless such moratorium is lifted to allow the research.
9. All educational uses of research materials shall be consistent with a good faith respect for the cultural integrity of all affected communities, and, as much as practical, developed in collaboration with such communities for mutual use.
10. All existing project materials in the possession, custody or control of an ISE member or affiliated organization shall be treated in a manner consistent with this Code of Ethics. All affected communities shall be notified, to the extent possible, of the existence of such materials, and their right to equitable sharing, compensation, remedial action, ownership, repatriation or other entitlements, as appropriate. Prior informed consent shall not be presumed for uses of biocultural information in the “public domain” and diligence shall be used to ensure that provenance or original source(s) of the knowledge and associated resources are included and traceable, to the degree possible, in further publications, uses and other means of dissemination.
11. If during the cycle of a project it is determined that the practices of any parties to the research are harmful to components of an ecosystem, it shall be incumbent upon the parties to first bring such practices and the impacts thereof to the notice of the offenders and attempt to establish a mutually agreed conflict resolution process, prior to informing the local community and/or government authorities of such practices and impacts.
12. ISE members shall in good faith endeavour to consider and ensure that project proposals, planning, and budgets are appropriate to collaborative interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research that complies with the ISE Code of Ethics. This may require prior consideration of elements such as: extended timeframes to enable permissions, development of mutually-agreed terms and ongoing communication; additional budget categories; research ethics and intellectual property ownership considerations that are in addition to or even inconsistent with policies of sponsoring institutions; additional reporting requirements and sharing of outcomes; and mechanisms and forms of communication with parties to the research activities, including the potential need for language fluency and translation. ISE members shall also endeavour to raise awareness among funding bodies, academic institutions and others about the increased time and costs that may be involved in adhering to this Code of Ethics.

ANNEX 2:

OUTLINE OF THE GLOBAL COALITION AS PRESCRIBED BY THE KUNMING ACTION PLAN

A GLOBAL COALITION FOR THE DEFENSE OF BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY BE HEREWITH ESTABLISHED TO ENCOURAGE THE PERMANENT AND MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, SCIENTISTS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED STRATEGY TO DEFEND THE BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF PLANET EARTH.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLOBAL COALITION WILL CONSIST OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO WISH TO WORK IN UNITY GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. Members will actively seek organizations to join the coalition;
2. Members will collaborate with indigenous organizations and indigenous peoples to develop multi-cultural, multi-lingual education and training materials; members will actively request governments and educators to use these materials;
3. Member researchers will take an ethically and socially responsible approach in their dealings with indigenous/native peoples and will provide a full feedback of their findings and results;
4. Members will use and engage the media whenever, wherever, and however possible to promote "The Declaration of Belém" and the "Kunming Action Plan";
5. The GLOBAL COALITION demands to be heard in the United Nations World Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and will actively pursue representation;
6. Members will work to guarantee that indigenous knowledge be duly considered in national and international development programs and projects;
7. Members will help to secure the recognition of traditional and indigenous knowledge as inventive and intellectual, and, therefore, worthy of protection in all legal, ethical, and professional frameworks;
8. Members will form an Ethics Committee to set standards and monitor the progress of the Kunming Action Plan;
9. Members will establish a "STRATEGY FOR THE GLOBAL COALITION" to guide activities for 1992 and beyond.

[1] This version of the Constitution includes changes approved by vote in the General Assembly at the 11th ICE in Cusco, Peru, in 2008.