

## *Summary*

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## **1. Institutes Overview**

The Ministry of Cultural Development was set up in 1989. The main business of the Ministry is the preservation, enhancement and perpetuation of the Cook Islands culture. The Ministry has the following sections;

- Anthropology and Heritage Section
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- Cook Islands National Auditorium (Are Karioi Nui)

## **2. ICH Information Activities**

### 1) National Library

The National Library is a unit under the National Records & Information division and is being merged with the National Archives. The National Library houses a small Pacific Collection, which it hopes to expand gradually as the focal point of reference for Cook Islanders and Researchers.

### 2) National Archives

The National Archives was established for the better preservation of public records of the Cook Islands which were transferred from government departments or acquired by the Archivist. Also, one of the major purposes of the National Archives is to preserve records of permanent value through the use of proper methods. The National Archives contains private, public and government information in the Archives custody which can be available for research.

## **3. IP Issues in Institutes**

The traditional performances of Cook Islands have been becoming popular among tourists. Because of this, some experts believe there are potential problems regarding IP infringement and plagiarism. In line with this, the Cook Islands is working on a draft copyright bill that will go to Parliament.

At present, the Ministry of Cultural Development and its related organisations do not have visible cases regarding IP rights infringement on ICH information. Also, policies or practical guidelines for protecting IP rights of ICH in the process of information building and sharing do not exist and, therefore, could not yet be used.

However, as people are becoming aware of the importance of the IP aspects of ICH information and the potential problems, stakeholders have been trying to bring up the more practical concerns on the IP matters of ICH.

### **3. IP Issues in Cook Islands**

Legislations related to ICH are;

- House of Ariki Act 1966
- MOC Act 1990
- Cultural and Historic Places Act
- Reo Maori Act 2003
- Environment Act 2003
- Atiu and Takutea Regulations
- Traditional Knowledge Bill 2013
- Copyright Bill