

International Updates from WIPO:

Protecting Against Biopiracy & Developing Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Protections

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 4:30–6:00PM (PT)

Mesquite G, Palm Springs Convention Center



Linda Benally

Advisor, Native American Church – State of New Mexico



Leo Dayish

President, Native American Church – State of New Mexico



Aaron Jones

Natural and Cultural Resources Director, The Tulalip Tribes;
Co-Chair, NCAI International Committee



Mark Macarro (Invited)

President, National Congress of American Indians;
Chairman, Pechanga Band of Indians



Heidi Todacheene

Founder and Principal, IndigiNational Strategies



Wend Wendland

Senior Fellow, Geneva Knowledge Centre;
Former Director, Traditional Knowledge Division, WIPO

In 2024, NCAI, Tribal governments, and Indigenous Peoples worldwide enjoyed a major victory helping to secure a new World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty that holds great promise for protecting traditional knowledge about plants and animals. This panel will discuss implementation of the GRATK Treaty and share latest developments in international negotiations on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, with insights from WIPO professionals, Tribal Leaders, lawyers, and traditional practitioners.

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Moderated by Kristen Carpenter & Sue Noe

Co-Directors of The Implementation Project

