

## 1- Identification

### Coordinates

Name and title of contact officer/person:

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### Submission

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Dr. Andrea H. NOUAK, 6. May 2003, CBD Focal Point Austria

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Signature of the officer responsible for submitting the questionnaire/ Date of submission

## Part 2 – Focus on general approach of the nation to traditional knowledge (TK)

### 1. What is the interest of your country in TK, e.g. commercialisation, research, technological transfers, etc.?

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An interest of the country as such on TK and related commercialisation, research, TT etc. does not exist. TK is regarded officially to be old fashioned, static and backward, while the country is focused in information technology, biotechnology, high technology etc.

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There exist only idiosyncratic pockets of interest on TK mostly at local level and organized in NGOs, which use TK in ecotourism (e.g. local crafts based on plant resources and processed according to TK are commercialised to tourists; or traditional buildings are reconstructed with local resources based on TK with the aim to attract tourist, tec.)

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### 2. What are your country's policies on TK?

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There are no explicit policies.

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Some policies do affect TK, but this spin is not intentionally. E.g. subsidies based on EU-Reg.2078/91 who do promote the mowing of high Alpine pastures or which do promote the continued keeping of endangered races of animals do have as an effect the revival of related TK. But this is arbitrary and not sustained explicitly with the necessary policies and other activities.

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Policies on the conservation of wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity neglect the inextricable link between biological and cultural diversity, i.e. the link between diversity and TK. Policies on the conservation of biodiversity have a bias towards nature science (mostly biology) and do not include social sciences or e.g. anthropology.

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### 3. What are the forms of information used by your country's government about TK?

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There is no information given by the government on TK. It is a non-existent topic.

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### 4. Is there any policy of your country that explicitly uses TK?

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No

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### 5. Are there any of your country's policies that link the use of TK to the maintenance of customary practices?

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No!

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The focus, e.g. in the conservation of the highly diverse and multifunctional landscape of the Alps or in the maintenance of orchards with old trees of apples and pears (*Streuobstwiesen*) is on the static maintenance of traditional agriculture. The issue is addressed from the perspective of agricultural economics, landscape planning or conservation biology but TK ist not an explicit matter at all.

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### 6. Are there any formal involvements of your country's government with non-government organisations such as NGOs, development NGOs, universities, academic researchers, professional organisations and research organisations, in TK projects?

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No!

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There is an involvement of the government with NGOs on the issue of conservation of wild biodiversity or agrobiodiversity (e.g. by subsidising ex-situ conservation of cultivars and landraces in gene banks like *Arche Noah*) but the important link of these activities to TK is not made. Focus is on "seed banking" not on "memory banking".

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Several research projects on TK have been submitted by several scientists (e.g. submitted to MAB/UNESCO Austria, to the Science Foundation FWF or to Federal Ministries), but the competent authorities have not funded these projects yet due to their focus on other issues (e.g. life sciences) or due to the fact that simply they do not understand the need to do so.

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At provincial or municipal level some funds are given to NGOs, which aim to revive or maintain pockets of TK on a descriptive and static basis. Mostly this is not done with the strategic vision on the importance of TK, but as a means of funding folkloric activities (customs, i.e., the background scenery for tourism). Some projects at regional level with the aim to maintain TK as cultural heritage and in relation to biodiversity might exist, but they are neither known nor brought to public recognition.

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There are some economic activities, which are e.g. related to local cultivars, which are the basis for highly appreciated foodstuff (Styrian pumpkin oil; Wachauer apricot, etc.). These are supported by some federal funds for research and marketing, but the inextricable link of these local specialities with TK is not realized nor supported in policies.

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### **Part 3 – Focus on retention of traditional knowledge (TK)**

#### **7. In your country, is traditional knowledge of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in continued use?**

Yes

##### **a. Among which people(s)?**

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In Austria TK of PGR for food and agriculture cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions related to PGR, e.g. small farmers, hunters, artisans, gatherers, herders, artisan food processors, etc.

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##### **b. In which area(s)? AREA: unclear: "geographic region" or "topic"**

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In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all areas/regions TK can be found, which is related to PGR for food (e.g. use of pumpkin seeds of a local cultivator for seed oil)

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##### **c. Is their any documentation of such traditional knowledge from the peoples referred in (a) and/or the areas referred to in (b) (See below)?**

Yes, but ONLY a hand full, if you refer to scientific research! There is more if you refer to romantic descriptive documentation, which mostly is out of context and therefore not helpful at all!!!!

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##### **If yes:**

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On hand made tools or architecture of local buildings,

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On management of traditional crops and cultivars

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**d. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

**X** Yes

**If yes:**

**Book chapters**

Vogl-Lukasser, B., C. R. Vogl & H. Bolhar-Nordenkamp (2002): The composition of Homegardens on small peasant farms in the Alpine regions of Osttirol (Austria) and their function in sustainable rural development. In: Stepp, J.R., Wyndham, F.S., and R.K. Zarger (eds.). *Ethnobiology and Biocultural Diversity*. p. 648 – 659. University of Georgia Press; Athens, Georgia, USA.

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2002): Ethnobotany as an Interdisciplinary Tool for the Study of the Biocultural Management of Agrobiodiversity in Homegardens of Alpine Farmers in Eastern Tyrol, In: *Interdisciplinary Mountain Research*; Roberta Bottarin & Ulrike Tappeiner (eds.), p. 264 – 273. Blackwell Science, London.

**Oral papers**

Vogl, C. R. & B. Vogl-Lukasser (2001): Dynamics in the Traditional Management of Natural Resources by Small Peasant Farmers in the Alpine Mountains of Eastern-Tyrol/Austria: its Consequences on Cultivation and Use of Plant Species. Paper presented at: "*Third International Congress on Ethnobotany-Ethnobotanica*", 23. – 29.9.2001, University of Naples, Italy.

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2001): Present, past and future management and use of traditional plant species in homegardens of small farmers in the alpine regions of Osttirol (Eastern Tyrol, Austria): Paper presented at: "*Third International Congress on Ethnobotany-Ethnobotanica*", 23. – 29.9.2001, University of Naples, Italy.

Vogl, C. R. (2002): The value of organic farming for the in-situ conservation of agrobiodiversity and related traditional ecological knowledge. *Annual Conference of the Society for Economic Botany*, New York, 21-27 of June 2002.

Vogl, C. R., B. Vogl-Lukasser & H. Reiner (2003): A documentation of the last remaining pockets of local knowledge on management and processing of *Brassica rapa* ssp. *rapa* (the turnip) in Alpine Eastern Tyrol (Lienz district). *Annual Conference of the Society for Economic Botany*, Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson/Arizona/USA, 2 - 5 of June 2003.

Vogl, C. R. & B. Vogl-Lukasser (2003): A methodology for the analysis of local knowledge in Eastern Tyrol (Lienz, Austria) for the support of site specific innovations in organic farming. Paper presented at: *Such ius Life: Reconciling holism and educationism – The new science and practice of health care, organic agriculture and nutrition*. 14 – 17 May 2003, Luis Bolk Institute, Driebergen, Netherlands

**Posters**

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2002): Temperate Homegardens of Small Alpine Farmers in Eastern Tyrol (Austria): Their Value for Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity. Int. Symposium "Rudolf Mansfeld and Plant Genetic Resources", Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung (IPK), 8. -9. Oktober 2001, Gatersleben, Germany,

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2002): Temperate Homegardens of Small Alpine Farmers in Eastern Tyrol (Austria): Their Value for Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity. In: Watson, J.W. & P.B. Eyzaguirre (eds.). *Home gardens and in situ conservation of plant genetic resources in farming systems*. Proceedings of the Second International Homegarden Workshop "Contribution of homegardens to in situ conservation of plant genetic resources in farming systems". 17-19.7.2001, Witzenhausen, Germany. 163-164. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2002): The value of homegardens and its management for biodiversity in mountain agriculture and subsistence of small alpine farmers families in Eastern Tyrol (Austria). Poster presented at: Forum Alpinum – The Nature of the Alps, 23. – 27. Sept. 2002, Alpbach, Tyrol.

Axmann, P. & C. R. Vogl (2003) Erhaltung von Agrarbioidiversität und soziale Innovation durch Ökologische Stadtlandwirtschaft am Beispiel des Konzeptes "Selbsternte" in Wien & Niederösterreich. Deutschsprachige Wissenschaftstagung zum Ökologischen Landbau, Februar 2003, Wien.

**Proceedings**

Vogl, C. R. & B. Vogl-Lukasser (2003) Lokales Wissen von Biobauern über ausgewählte Elementen der Agrarbioidiversität im Bezirk Lienz (Österreich): Zur Bedeutung, Anwendung und Weiterentwicklung ethnobiologischer Forschungsfragen und Methoden in der Forschung im Ökologischen Landbau. In: Freyer, B. (Hrsg.) Beiträge zur 7. Wissenschaftstagung zum Ökologischen Landbau "Ökologischer Landbau der Zukunft". 24. –26- Februar in Wien, S. 403-406, Eigenverlag des Institutes für Ökologischen Landbau, Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien.

**More references including those of other authors can be listed, if more time is given.**

**8. In your country, is traditional knowledge of animals and micro-organisms for food and other purposes in continued use?**

X Yes

**a. Among which people(s)?**

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In Austria TK of animals and MO for food and agriculture cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions like small farmers, hunters, artisans, gatherers, herders, artisan food processors, etc.

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**b. In which area(s)?**

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In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all areas/regions TK can be found.

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E.g. the use of lactic acid fermentation of *Brassica rapa* ssp. *rapa* to produce *Rübenkraut* in Tyrol

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E.g. the use of MO in the fermentation of *Brassica rapa* ssp. *rapa* to produce *Schnaps* in Tyrol

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**c. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

X Yes, see above

**More references including those of other authors can be listed, if more time is given.**

**9. In your country, is traditional medicinal knowledge in continued use?**

X Yes

**a. Among which people(s)?**

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In Austria TK of medicinal knowledge cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions related to medicinal knowledge, e.g. veterinarians, physicians, small farmers, etc.

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**b. In which area(s)?**

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In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all areas/regions TK can be found.

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E.g. the use of wild biodiversity in veterinary medicine is widespread under small farmers.

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E.g. the use of fruit, crops, herbs and spices of private gardens and nature as medicine and "healthy food" is widespread.

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**c. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

X Yes

**If yes:**

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Prof. Kubelka, ethnopharmacologist from the University of Vienna

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Prof. Holzner, botanist, from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna

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**More references including those of other authors can be listed, if more time is given.**

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**10. In your country, are traditional knowledge systems in continued use in the following ecosystem categories? Among which people(s) and in which areas? Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

**A) Forests**

Yes

**a. Among which people(s)?**

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In Austria TK in forestry cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions related to forests, e.g. small farmers, hunters, artisans, gatherers, herders, artisan food processors, etc.

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**b. In which area(s)?**

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In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all areas/regions TK can be found.

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E.g. the use of forestry resources in the construction of barriers against mud slides and avalanches.

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E.g. collection berries for the production of juices, jams as well as collecting mushrooms.

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**c. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

No

**B) Dryland and steppes ecosystems**

Yes

**a. Among which people(s)?**

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In Austria TK in the management of drylands cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions related to drylands, e.g. small farmers, hunters, artisans, gatherers, herders, artisan food processors, etc.

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**b. In which area(s)?**

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In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all dry areas/regions TK can be found.

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E.g. harvesting of reed and processing of reed to rooftops

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E.g. grazing of steppes in Burgenland Province (Pannonic plains) with local breed cattle

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**c. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

No

**C) Marine and coastal ecosystems**

No

**D) Island ecosystems**

No

**a. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

No

**E) Mountain and valley ecosystems**

Yes

Most examples above come from mountain ecosystems

**F) Inland waters**

No

**a. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

No

**G) Arctic ecosystems**

No

**a. Could a list of references or a contact person(s) able to assist us, be provided?**

No

**11. In your country, what practices relevant to the customary management, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are no longer maintained or are at risk of disappearing?**

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E.g. Arable farming and traditional crop rotations in the Alps are not maintained. Related agro-biodiversity (weeds, local cultivars, traditional crops) almost disappeared, together with the related knowledge on management, processing etc.

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E.g. mowing of high Alpine pastures and animal husbandry at high Alpine meadows is not maintained and thus leading to the disappearance of species.

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E.g. steep slopes are not managed (i.e. mown) any more and planted with forests instead, leading to a loss of highly diverse patterns of biotopes and leading to a loss of the related flora and fauna.

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**a. Among which people(s)?**

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E.g. small farmers

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**b. In which area(s)?**

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E.g. Alps

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**12. In your country, what measures and/or activities are proposed to maintain the customary practices of people relevant to the management, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?**

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Based on EC-Reg. 2078/91 and the Austrian Environmental Scheme ÖPUL some funds are dedicated to maintain the management of extensive, low productive land and of steep Alpine slopes, or to grow/keep old varieties/old animal races. There is no link made between these activities and TK.

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**a. Are these measures and/or activities supported by your country's government policy?**

X Yes

**b. Are these measures and/or activities supported or assisted by your country's government?**

X Yes

**c. Are these measures and/or activities supported or assisted by non-government or other organisations?**

X Yes

**If yes, please specify.**

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E.g. some private technical offices supervise and monitor these programs

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E.g. some NGOs give advice and offer educational programs on the issue of conservation

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No link made between these activities and the topic of TK

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#### **Part 4 – Focus on protection, promotion and facilitation of use of Traditional Knowledge (TK)**

**13. What, if any, are the regional and national land use practices that are being used in your country, to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

**If any, please specify how they are being used.**

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There is no explicit policy to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK. Therefore no reg. or nat. land use practice is actively and explicitly used to protect TK.

Of course in an indirect way many farmers by themselves, without any policy do maintain reg. land use practices to maintain TK as a matter of their culture.

And as already described above, some measures supported officially (maintenance or establishment of hedges; of orchards (*Streuobstwiesen*) etc. do in an indirect way help in maintaining TK, but you cannot say that this is an conscious activity to protect, promote or facilitate TK in the sense of CBD Art 8j.

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**14. What, if any, are the incentive measures that are being used in your country to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

None

**If none, please indicate if your country is in the process of developing such measure(s).**

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No, not in process

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**15. What, if any, are the capacity-building measures that are being used in your country to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

None

**If none, please indicate if your country is in the process of developing such measure(s).**

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No, not in process

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**16. Is there any repatriation of objects and associated information to communities of origin that is intended in your country to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

X No

**17. What, if any, strategic planning that is being undertaken for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the context of community development planning in your country to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

No strategic planning on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the context of community development planning to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK

**18. What, if any, are the legislative measures, including policy and administrative, that are being developed in your country, to protect, promote or facilitate the use of TK?**

None

**Part 5 – Other relevant information and/or comments**

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TK in industrialized countries needs special attention and special policies. It is well recognized that many countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Oceania and countries of the North with ethnic indigenous groups have TK. But especially European countries ignore that many professions, that deal with biodiversity over generations, hold highly !! valuable TK for the conservation of BD.

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