

## Expression of Interest:

### *Australia-World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)*

### *International Intellectual Property Cooperation Project*

### *Bushfoods Pilot*

Location: Australia (with possibility of travel to Geneva, Switzerland)

Term: Approximately 12 months - consisting of an estimated 30-50 hours of participation over the term

*These positions are only open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander candidates as detailed below.*

## 1. About the Australia-World Intellectual Property Organization Bushfoods Pilot

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Department) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have agreed to establish a cooperation project to identify and address practical intellectual property (IP) challenges faced by First Nations businesses when considering exporting.

Based on consultations with First Nations stakeholders, IP protection was identified as a major priority for First Nations businesses seeking to trade and do business internationally. Greater understanding of and access to IP protection could assist with increasing First Nations communities' participation in, and benefits derived from, international trade and investment. It provides exclusivity over elements of the exported product, helps protect against imitators and may help simplify access to new markets through contractual agreements such as licensing.

To commence the project, the Department and WIPO have agreed to run a pilot focussed on international IP protection for products containing or consisting of **bushfoods** (Pilot). The Department is seeking expressions of interest from First Nations individuals, businesses, organisations or other bodies (Participants) to participate in a 12-month Pilot to deliver a tailored training and mentoring program based on identified Participant needs.

The Pilot seeks to work with representatives from Australia's First Nations bushfoods sector to co-design and test ways to build IP management tools and resources to support First Nations bushfood stakeholders. To better understand the risks and opportunities regarding international IP protection for bushfoods products the Pilot will explore issues including:

- How IP can reduce barriers and create opportunities facing bushfoods trade overseas
- Increasing awareness and skills around international IP protection
- Exploring key IP considerations related to bushfoods

## 2. Who we are looking for

The Pilot will involve a small number (two to five) of eligible (see below) Participants.

There may also be opportunities for input from a wider range of interested stakeholders, such as virtual roundtables and workshops based on key themes as identified with Participants during various stages of the Pilot.

The Participants, together with possible input from interested stakeholders, will co-design the Pilot's specific activities with relevant Australian Government agencies and WIPO.

Financial support, including to cover travel and accommodation plus remuneration will be available to assist participation in the Pilot's activities.

## 3. Check your eligibility

Please check the following:	Yes	No
Are you or do you meet any of the following requirements (it is sufficient to meet one of the requirements):		
- a sole proprietor/ trader with 100% ownership by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- an Indigenous enterprise as defined under the Commonwealth <a href="#">Indigenous Procurement Policy</a> , namely an enterprise that is at least 50 per cent Indigenous owned?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you operating in the Australian bushfoods market?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you interested in better understanding and using the IP system, specifically in relation to exporting bushfoods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you exporting or interested in exporting products containing or consisting of bushfoods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you, or a representative of your enterprise, available for approximately 30-50 hours over the next 12 month for meetings, co-design, training, mentoring and evaluation purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- times, dates and locations TBD with the relevant participants		
- may include in-person meetings in Australian capital cities and Geneva, Switzerland		
- may include several virtual meetings		

Notably, applicants may require eligibility evidence such as a statutory declaration made by you or a member of an Indigenous Service Provider confirming that you or your business, organisation or other body is either 100 per cent (sole proprietorship) or more than 50 per cent (Indigenous enterprise) Indigenous owned.

The ideal candidate will be engaged in the Australian bushfoods sector and interested in or already engaged in exporting their product. The candidate will want to better understand IP protection, specifically in relation to protecting their IP internationally.

Please note that in considering candidates, the Department will prioritise applications that ensure that participants have balanced representation across gender and geography.

#### 4. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via the e-mail address below and include the following:

- Confirmation that you meet the eligibility requirements, including where possible inclusion on any Indigenous enterprises registries such as those maintained by the Office of the Registrar for Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) or Supply Nation's 'Indigenous Business Direct'.
- A short business case (suggest 1-2 pages) detailing your interest in the Australian bushfoods sector, stage in your export journey, and any other material relevant to your interest in participating in the Pilot. Please include details of how you meet the eligibility requirements, and any relevant website links.
- Please indicate whether translating or interpreting services are required.
- Contact details for any further discussions

Expressions of interest, including the above should be emailed to [bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au](mailto:bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au) by **11:55PM Wednesday, 25 September 2024**. The Department will short list applicants based upon responses to the above criteria. Unfortunately, late submissions will not be accepted.

Shortlisted applicants may then be contacted for additional information.

All answers provided will be treated as confidential and will only be used to assess suitability for the Pilot. For a confidential discussion and further information about the appointment including candidate requirements, please contact [bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au](mailto:bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au).

## **5. How to get more information**

For further information on Pilot participation, please contact [bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au](mailto:bushfoodspilot@dfat.gov.au).