**Legal Protection for Traditional Knowledge**

*Towards a New Law for Indigenous Intellectual Property*

Anindya Bhukta

**About the Book**

Many aboriginal communities in the Global South depend for their livelihoods on the vast supply of bio-resources around them, but multinational corporations (MNCs) are not always ethical in their dealings with these communities. MNCs often pirate and patent communal, traditional knowledge, thereby “acquiring” intellectual property potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars almost free of cost. Aboriginal communities face steep uphill legal battles in these cases.

Here Anindya Bhukta explores the porous legal relations between traditional knowledge and current intellectual property law. Focusing on aboriginal communities in India, Bhukta explains how India, like other resource-rich countries, has spent millions trying to revoke US-issued patents on knowledge gained from aboriginal communities using existing IPR legislation. He demonstrates that existing IPR laws do not provide full legal protection in such cases - a fact acknowledged by the World Trade Organization when it categorically asked for a *sui generis* law to be developed for precisely these purposes - and he suggests just such a new law that could offer more robust legal protection for aboriginal communities wishing to capitalize on their own accomplishments. In so doing, Bhukta calls attention to the vital contributions that aboriginal communities make to global development.

*Legal Protection for Traditional Knowledge* is a must-read for researchers in economics, development studies, and international law, and especially those with an interest in the intellectual property status of traditional knowledge.

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