1. Welcome

Delegates to introduce themselves and their constituencies

2. Background information:

In 2003 UNESCO launched an initiative to preserve the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of all nations across the world.

UNESCO believes that that intangible cultural heritage is the transmission of accumulated knowledge over time typified by attentive stewardship of nature’s resources; it is a vibrant source of experience and lies at the heart of our identities, it carries answers to many of the world’s issues, and contributes to food security, social cohesion, health, and livelihoods, while respecting a sustainable environment. Despite its evident benefits, intangible cultural heritage is frequently overlooked in development circles, and erroneously reduced to folklore and rituals, or only relevant economically for tourism and handicrafts. Numerous studies, however, have clearly demonstrated that it is employed universally to tackle everything from food scarcity and environmental change to health problems, education or conflict prevention and resolution. In the face of increasing globalisation, our youth must not only know about our intangible cultural heritage, but also take ownership to protect it where needed.

Examples of success stories on this front include the ‘re-discovery’ and establishment of near extinct languages of several minority tribes, and the celebration of traditional clothing and community traditions all over the world.

Annexure 1 - UNESCO and ICH

The professions were challenged to see what ICH is there, that needs to be protected /deserves to be celebrated as legacy for future generations.

The International Bourgelat Committee (IBC) was established by the OIE with the following objective:

The inventory and preservation of the tangible and intangible scientific and cultural veterinary heritage and its mediation to the widest possible public

The prestigious veterinary heritage comprises the following:

a) the creation of veterinary education, the veterinary profession, veterinary science and ethics, and the invention of concept of comparative biopathology by Claude Bourgelat at the end of the 18th Century;

b) all the many veterinary scientific contributions to animal and human health and subsequently their welfare;

c) the founding concepts and fundamental values enshrined in the veterinary profession,

d) veterinarians as benefactors of humanity and veterinarians renowned for their outstanding achievements in many different spheres;

e) veterinary schools and faculties, along with their libraries, museums and historic collections,
f) The associations and other veterinary institutions that have been active for more than fifty years, and especially our World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), created in 1924.

Annexure 2a and 2b – OIE and ICH the Bourgelat Committee

Annexure 3 – The IBC Statutes and Charter

Annexure 4 - Reference values

a) Comparative biopathology
b) Animal Health
c) Economical concern
d) Professional ethics
e) Veterinary public health
f) Food security
g) Animal welfare
h) Biodiversity

The website also mentions-

a) Famous veterinarians
b) Benefactors of humanity
c) Institutions: schools libraries, museums and associations
d) Collections: illustrations, publications and books

3. Discussion:

3.1 Define what we would like to see as ICH in Southern Africa – what needs to be preserved, and/or showcased to the rest of the world:

3.1.1 Cultural gems special to South Africa could include:

a) Community Veterinary clinics;
b) Initiatives and involvement with rhino preservation;
c) “The Africa experience” associated with the World Veterinary Association Congress in 2014: Overseas veterinarians getting involved with community work;
d) The history of our profession in South Africa - The History Committee of the SAVA can contribute here;
e) The legacy of the early pioneers like Theiler toward food security in the subcontinent;
f) The Onderstepoort Biological Products [OBP];
g) Breakthroughs in game management – contribution internationally;
h) Unsung heroes: There are also the unsung heroes;
   – Like Dr George Pfaff, who safeguarded the health of the tame elephant population in Burma before the Second World War, which elephants were then instrumental in the Monsoon Invasion of Burma and the turning of the tide of history.
i) Communal heritage:
   Although veterinary science as such is a recent development in SA, our communal history is rich with the legacy of working with animals: the Koi, the Bantu and a large part of the white settlers, were stockmen; and where there is stock, there is management, and feeding; there are pests and problems - and solutions and cures.
j) We have inherited:
   • Indigenous breeds- for instance the Africanis and inimitable Basotho Pony;
   • Herbal and common sense ways used traditionally to treat illnesses – Prof Bath was collecting 'boererate';
k) The stockmanship and husbandry traditions: the dying art of using oxen for transport and ploughing; the legacy of the donkey;

l) Also from there – the passion of a people to erect monuments to the horse (PE), the donkey (Upington).

Consider the direction that celebration of culture can take – even poverty reduction by tourism as in the Brazilian slums.

3.2 Decide on the creation of a permanent committee
3.3 Agree on the structure of such a committee:

   a. Terms of reference: As per IBC website (Annexure3)

   b. Membership

   c. Term

   d. Finance and industry sponsorship

   e. Chairmanship: revolving chair?

   f. Co-opt interest groups: History committee, Eastern Cape interest group?

3.4 Name of committee

3.5 Prioritise some items and discuss what needs to be done to preserve / celebrate them

3.6 Activities: Launch/ links to discussion groups

3.7 Website linked to IBC site

4. Closure

The venue, date and time of the next meeting