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VALORISATION AND PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL FOOD PRODUCTS THROUGH CULTURAL HERITAGE LAW INSTRUMENTS IN BRAZIL

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The paper analyzes the role that Cultural Heritage Law instruments play in promoting and valuing agrobiodiversity, food diversity and traditional/regional products in Brazil. The paper analyzes how instruments such as intangible cultural heritage registries, “cultural landscapes” conservation, as well as other public policies and programs, contribute to the recognition and safeguarding of traditional processes, practices and knowledge associated to traditional food products, thus promoting food and agricultural diversity. Some specific cases are discussed, such as the ceramic pans of Goiabeiras (in the state of Espírito Santo), used for making *moqueca capixaba*, a traditional fish stew; the traditional process of making *acarajé* (a ritual food of Afro-Brazilian religions known as *candomblé*); and the registry of the traditional agricultural system of Rio Negro, in the Amazon, as Brazilian cultural heritage. The paper also analyzes the conceptual legal framework within which these instruments are implemented, and how the Brazilian Constitution expanded the concept of cultural heritage, and explicitly recognized its dual nature (tangible and intangible), including cultural expressions that are not physical objects, but dynamic processes: “living” heritage, rooted in the daily lives of local communities, such as food traditions and practices.

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