

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Introduction

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) carries out its Cooperation for Development programs and activities for Africa at the request of its Member States. The adoption of the Development Agenda recommendations¹ by WIPO Member States has provided an opportunity for WIPO to further undertake concrete and tangible actions to mainstream the development dimension into all the organization's programs and activities. In line with the recommendations on the Development Agenda, WIPO is assisting Member States in their efforts to build national capacities to enable them take full advantage of their intellectual property (IP) systems as a strategic tool for economic growth and national development. WIPO is also promoting the implementation of NEPAD's priorities and the African Union's (AU) 10-Year Capacity Building.

National IP strategies and IP development plans

The national IP plan aims at providing a comprehensive and integrated plan over time whereby all national stakeholders can work together to create, own and exploit research results, innovations, new technologies and works of creativity. National IP policies and strategies as well as national IP development plans were completed for Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, Liberia, Mauritius and Uganda. National IP policies/strategies and plans have been requested and are being designed in the following countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Guinea and Mali. They have been elaborated in keeping with the needs and priorities reflected in national development plans and other policy framework such as the national strategic development plan for Rwanda Vision 2020 and the Liberian Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Mechanisms for consultation, review, reporting and evaluation between WIPO and the authorities concerned are an integral part of the process throughout the life cycles of the activities. The range of activities deployed within this context varies according to each country and includes, *inter alia*, transfer of technology in Nigeria, research and development (R&D) for universities in Mauritius and Rwanda, and creation of networks in West, East, Southern and Central Africa to enhance copyright management. To review national IP policy or strategy, workshops were carried out in 2009 in Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania (Zanzibar).

Capacity-building

WIPO capacity-building activities have been tailored to respond to diverse and specific needs of African countries in order to develop and enhance their capacity in important areas of IP such as planning for IP development, awareness building, human resource development, strengthening of

¹ For further information see at <http://www.wipo.int/ip-development/en/agenda/>

relevant institutions and infrastructure, formulation of legislation taking into account flexibilities under the current international IP regime, and enhancing professional capabilities and building tools for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). To strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for the administration of the IP system, as well as the capacity of other stakeholders, such as universities, research and development institutions, enterprises, professional associations and collective management organizations in the use and management of IP for development, the following activities had been undertaken in 2008-2009:

- Intensive training course on copyright, reproduction right and copyright management for senior management staff of the Music Copyright Society of Kenya;
- Training on reprographic rights management for officials from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar and Mauritius;
- National workshop on copyright and private copy in Mauritius;
- Sensitization Seminar on the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks for the staff of IP Office and Legal Practitioners in Liberia;
- Workshop on Nice classification for *Organisation africaine de la propriété intellectuelle* (OAPI) Member States;
- National Awareness Creation Seminar on Copyrights and Neighboring Rights Acts in Botswana;
- Conference for Rwandan parliamentarians on the protection of IP;
- African-Arab Seminar on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions WIPO Conference on Enforcement of Copyright in Nigeria;
- WIPO-OAPI: Sub-regional Seminar on IP Rights Implementation for Magistrates in Gabon;
- One expert consultation mission for drafting implementing regulations in Burundi;
- Three days working session on IP draft bill for a delegation from United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar) in Geneva.

In order to improve efficiency and strengthen IP administration, equipment was provided to eight countries: Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania (Zanzibar). Five countries were financed by the Fund-in-Trust (FIT) of Japan (Algeria, Cameroon, Liberia, Mauritius, and Sierra Leone).

WIPO Software for Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights (WIPOCOS), which is all-embracing data processing management software for collective management of copyright and related rights, was deployed in South Africa, Togo, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Niger, South Africa, Benin and Zanzibar.

Technical assistance in the area of innovation promotion and technology transfer

WIPO supports its African Member States in the area of innovation promotion and technology transfer for them to enhance their capacity to design and implement innovation support and technology transfer policies, to develop their know-how in the field of IP assets management and to establish and strengthen technology transfer related infrastructures.

The following activities were undertaken in 2009:

- Pilot initiatives in selected OAPI Member States to enhance access to, and sharing of patent and other IP commercial and technical information by research institutions and industry groups
- Digitization and indexing of patent documents in the African Regional Intellectual Property Office (ARIPO) and its Member States for data exchange with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Patentscope system and other value-added services related to acquisition and development of technology and use of patent information.

Meetings were also organized on issues related to innovation promotion and transfer of technology:

- WIPO National Forum on Promoting Innovation and Managing Intellectual Property for Development: Cairo, Egypt, May 10-11, 2009
- WIPO Regional Workshop on IP Management and Successful Technology Licensing (STL) for R&D Institutions: Cairo, Egypt, May 14, 2009, in the framework of the 6th Regional Investment in Technology Forum for the Arab World, organized by the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF): Cairo, Egypt, May 12 to 14, 2009
- WIPO Regional Workshop on IP Management for Universities and Research and Development Institutions: Abuja, Nigeria, May 20 to 22, 2009
- WIPO Regional Workshop on IP and Strengthening Capacities in Valuation by Universities and Research Centers of Research Results: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, June 24 to 26, 2009
- WIPO Regional Patent Drafting Training (ARIPO): Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 15 to July 31, 2009
- WIPO Regional Patent Drafting Training: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, August 18 to 22, 2008
- International Colloquium on Intellectual Property in the Knowledge Economy: A Challenge for Africa and its Diaspora: Yaoundé, Cameroon, from October 7 to 9, 2008
- National Workshop on Advanced Successful Technology Licensing: Dakar, Senegal, Zimbabwe and Rwanda
- National Symposium on IP Education, Training and Research: Luanda, Angola, December 3 to 5, 2008
- WIPO-ARIPO Regional Workshop on Patent Drafting and Distance Learning Program: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, December 3 to 12, 2008
- In 2010 four TISCs will be established in Algeria, Mozambique, Morocco and Senegal.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

WIPO is assisting ARIPO, OAPI and their Member States in the elaboration of harmonized regional instruments for the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs). A regional task force consisting of regional experts to develop a regional approach towards IP, TK and TCEs was established. Also a study on the identification, recording and IP value of folklore in Senegal was completed at the national level in October 2008. Finally, workshops on genetic resources, TK and folklore were organized (June 19 and

20, 2008 in Chavanne-de-Bogis, Switzerland and Divonne les Bains, France on June 12 and 13, 2009) with the aim of agreeing on a common African position with regard to those questions.

Copyright Collective Management

WIPO carried out the following activities: launching of Phase II of the Regional Training on Reprography for ARIPO Member States with a focus on management and policy; launching of Phase I of the Regional Training on Reprography for OAPI Member States: Introduction to Reprographic Rights Management for CMOs; development of an integrated framework for the establishment and/or enhancement of Collective Management Systems in the Portuguese speaking countries of Africa; development of an integrated framework for the establishment and in support of the Regional Network of CMO and Copyright Office in the Central Africa region; training on the use of the WIPOCOS software for WIPOCOS Officials and User societies; and regional Training and Collective Management of Related Rights in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2008.

NEPAD related meetings

In the framework of UN agencies support to NEPAD, WIPO was represented at all Regional Consultation Meetings (RCM) of UN agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD program. WIPO attended the 10th RCM of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Program, the Open Forum on NEPAD in Addis Ababa, November 7, 2009, as well as the Cluster on Science and Technology meeting organized in Geneva in 2009.

WIPO is also cooperating with the AU in the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action. In this context WIPO attended the African Cluster on Science and Technology Meeting and African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (in Abuja, Nigeria). WIPO has also participated in the meeting of the Technical Committee on the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (Ethiopia and South Africa).