

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Support to the AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) carries out its Strategic Goal III: “Facilitating the Use of IP for Development” in close consultation and cooperation with its African Member States, taking into account each one’s specific needs, priorities, challenges and level of development, with due attention paid to the status and requirements of Least-Developed Countries (LDCs).

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 of the Development Agenda, WIPO’s commitment to African Member States focuses on supporting the development and implementation of country-owned National Intellectual Property and Innovation Strategies aimed at addressing their specific needs and to build national capacities to enable them to take full advantage of their intellectual property (IP) systems, bearing in mind the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) priorities and the African Union (AU) 10 year Capacity Building Program.

National IP Strategies and IP Development Plans

National IP Strategies are a long term process which lay out the policy at the national level. They will provide each Member State with a shared vision, common objectives and an agreed framework for modernizing and utilizing the IP system for development benefits. Such strategies are closely aligned with national development objectives and integrated in the development plans of the countries.

In the framework of national strategic planning and policy development, IP offices are being encouraged and supported to undertake a systematic needs assessment using various tools and mechanisms such as IP audit tools, IP needs assessment questionnaires and analysis with the aim of assessing their modernization needs for service and development orientation for achieving a comprehensive approach to the development of a national IP plan.

The national IP plan aims at providing a comprehensive and integrated plan of action whereby all national stakeholders can work together to create, protect, own and exploit research results, innovations, new technologies and works of creativity. This would facilitate country-specific demand-driven, development-oriented, transparent and result-based programs which will be monitored, evaluated and owned by the country.

National IP development plans were adopted and are in different stages of implementation for Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Zambia, Malawi, Liberia, Mauritius, Seychelles and Uganda. National IP plans are under discussion and formulation for: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Tanzania and Mali. They have been elaborated in

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

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.

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 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 and modernize IP administrations and institutions, as well as the capacity of other stakeholders, such as universities, research and development (R&D) institutions, enterprises, professional associations and collective management organizations in the use and management of IP for development, the following activities had been undertaken in 2010-2011:

- Training in copyright, reprographic rights (Harare, Zimbabwe);
- Study Program on Human Resource Development in the Field of Industrial Property (Tokyo, Japan);
- Regional Seminar on Enforcement (Brazzaville, Congo);
- Training Workshop on the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, (Gabon, Botswana);
- Joint WIPO-SCARP Working Group Meeting on WIPO Software for Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights (WIPOCOS), Madrid, Spain, February 2010;
- Expert Needs Assessment Mission for the Establishment of a new framework for Collective Management, Accra, Ghana;
- Study visits of officials from Kenya, Namibia and Uganda to Copyright Licensing Agency, London; and Norwegian Reprographic Rights Organization (KOPINOR), Oslo;
- Study Days on the Distribution System & Rules of the Togolese Bureau (BUTODRA);
- Study visit to Spedidam for one Kenyan official;
- Implementation Process of the Development Agenda Enhancement and Networking of Collective Management in West Africa;
- National seminar on enforcement of IPRs for magistrates in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana;
- National seminar on enforcement of copyright for journalists in Cameroon;
- WIPO/ African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)/ International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO) Regional seminar on management of literary and artistic works in Cameroon.
- WIPO-INPI-Portugal Post-graduate Diploma Program (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe) in Lisbon, Portugal; and
- Two fellowships were granted to participants from Algeria and Cameroon to Turin-master of Laws (LL.M) in Intellectual Property; Partial Financing of the WIPO-OAPI-University of Yaoundé II Master Program (beginning in Oct 2010) (Fund-in-Trust (FIT)/Japan); and six fellowships to Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe.

In order to improve efficiency and to support the strengthening of the IP administration, equipment was provided to Angola, Burundi, Congo Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya,

Mali and Zimbabwe under the FIT/Japan for Africa and LDCs. Also WIPOCOS which is an 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's work to support its African Member States in the area of innovation promotion and technology transfer 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 included, among other:

- a. Technical advice for conducting national IP audits oriented to feed and enrich the process of national strategic planning in the areas of science and technology (S&T), R&D, innovation promotion and technology management and transfer;
- b. Regional Conference on Technology and Innovation Support (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia);
- c. Technical assistance for the implementation of national IP strategies for innovation promotion and technology management and transfer;
- d. Capacity building for the development or enhancement of institutional IP policies for R&D institutions and universities, for them to design customized institutional and legal frameworks to protect, manage, transfer and license their R&D results as IP assets;
- e. Capacity-building for improving developing country practical skills and know-how in the areas of, among other:
 - patent drafting;
 - IP and technology management;
 - IP valuation and funding;
 - IP marketing;
 - Negotiating technology transfer and licensing; and
 - IP related clauses in sponsored research contracts, joint research projects and other modalities of R&D partnerships.

Several meetings were organized by WIPO in 2010 on issues related to innovation promotion and transfer of technology such as, for example, the Regional Workshop on Technology Transfer Based on the Strategic Use on Intellectual Property, Casablanca, Morocco (FIT/Japan); and the WIPO – African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) Regional seminar on the Usefulness of Patent Information and Commercialization for Research Results, Harare (FIT/Japan).

WIPO is also providing technical advice and capacity building to support Member States in the establishment or enhancement of IP management and innovation support infrastructure such as, for example, technology transfer offices (TTOs) at universities, IP Hubs for Networks of R&D institutions, technology management units and Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs), which will act as a central point of expertise for patent and technology information in the relevant country. In 2010-2011, TISCs have been or are being established in Algeria, Mozambique, Morocco and Senegal, and a pilot project was launched to establish TTOs established in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Researchers from Guinea and officials from Côte d'Ivoire undertook a study visit to Tunisia.

Finally, WIPO participated in various meetings: High Level Forum on the Global Intellectual Property Infrastructure for Promotion of Innovation, Tokyo, Japan; National Symposium on Intellectual Property Education, Training & Research, Monrovia; Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Science & Technology, Cairo; *Journées de la science et la technologie*, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; *Salon de la recherche et des innovations* (SARIS), Dakar; International Conference on Innovation & Creativity of Women in Science & Business for Economic Development, Warsaw, Poland; Second Science with Africa Conference; and at the Annual Congress of the International Association for the advancement of Teaching and Research in IP.

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions

WIPO assisted ARIPO and OAPI and their Member States in the elaboration of harmonized regional instruments for the protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) which led to the Adoption of the ARIPO Protocol for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Expressions of Folklore known as the “Swakopmund Protocol” adopted at Swakopmund, Namibia, August 3 to 10, 2010.

WIPO organized in cooperation with the African Group in Geneva, workshops on “Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore” with the aim of agreeing on a common African position with regard to those questions.