

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: 2003-2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

WIPO has attached great importance to the economic benefits of intellectual property and focused a significant part of its activities on this aspect, in conformity with the vision of African leaders as articulated in NEPAD. While continuing its activities on institution building and enforcement, WIPO also cooperates with international economic organizations, regional economic groupings, non-governmental intellectual property organizations and regional organizations.

Areas of support for NEPAD

The following initiatives were started in 2003 and will be completed in 2004:

- A methodology for assessing the benefits of the intellectual property system to developing countries: a questionnaire which will be used in conducting national assessments of the benefits of the intellectual property system to developing countries as a tool for strategic planning has been prepared.
- An analytical study on intellectual property and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania with the objective of examining the present level of awareness and use of intellectual property by SMEs in order to facilitate the development of intellectual property strategies for the sector.

- A cooperation plan on the implementation of the pilot project on the promotion and protection of geographical indications was signed by WIPO, the *Organisation africaine de la propriété industrielle (OAPI)*, *Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI)* of France, the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs and the *Institut national pour les appellations d'origine (INAO)* of France. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France recently joined the group in charge of implementing the project which started in 2002. The project is in the pilot phase in 4 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinée and Côte d'Ivoire. It is expected to be extended to other countries in 2004.

- Seminars were organized on various aspects of the economic impact of intellectual property such as the economic importance of distinctive signs, the strategy for acquisition, effective management and dissemination of intellectual property information, intellectual property and electronic commerce, support of small and medium-sized enterprises, on licensing and distribution of royalties.

- WIPO has started assisting countries in the region in establishing a data exchange system for collective management organizations called "Africa Copyright Common Networking (ACCN)." In this context, a cooperation agreement was signed during a Ministerial Meeting organized in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on December 12, 2003, among the copyright offices and collective management societies of 11 West African countries.

Institution building and strengthening initiatives

The automation of industrial property and copyright offices continued and 18 missions were undertaken by, in particular, the WIPO Senior Automation Consultant for Africa. The industrial property offices of Kenya, Lesotho and Namibia were fully automated in 2003.

Collective management societies were set up in 5 countries, namely Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Mozambique and Uganda. In a system of copyright management, rather than undertake the strenuous and cumbersome task of exercising rights individually, copyright right holders assign their rights to an entity, i.e. the copyright society, to administer "collectively." As such on their behalf, the society enters into negotiation with the myriad users, determines the tariffs to be applied for the use of the works, monitors the use of works both at national and international levels and therefore acts as a bridge between the creators and the commercial market exploiting their works. The system of collective management is regarded as an incentive for creativity, for creators are guaranteed a remuneration from the use of their works and, at the same time, it allows rapid access by the public to an ever growing and enriched world of artistic creations.

Fourteen countries were provided with equipment such as workstations, computers, DVDs, CD-ROMs, heavy-duty photocopy machines, faxes and scanners. The countries concerned were: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO).

Study visits for 19 officials from 10 countries were organized in various fields of intellectual property management. The countries represented were: Angola,

Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Equatorial, Ghana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo and Uganda.

On-the-job training on the use of the Vienna Classification was organized for 38 officials. The aim of the workshop was to equip the staff with the relevant skills in search, examination and processing procedures and international classification methods. Training on collective management was given to 11 officials.

AFRICOS software is an all-embracing data processing management software for collective management of copyright and related rights. The software was developed by WIPO in Burkina Faso. It offers a fully automated management of data, with an electronic access to databases established in the framework of the global network of data exchange of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC). In particular, the software, which operates in a multi-user environment, processes automatically the 3 key elements of collective management of copyright and related rights, i.e.

- a) capture of all data relating to documentation of the authors;
- b) capture of all data relating to documentation of the works declared;
- c) identification of the users of the works; and
- d) actual distribution of royalties.

The software takes into account all the requirements of the international system of information exchange.

Enforcement of intellectual property rights

WIPO co-organized with the World Trade Organization (WTO):

- the National Seminar on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), in

Cotonou, Benin, in which 186 officials participated; and

- the WIPO/WTO Joint National Seminar on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), in Bamako, Mali (74 officials participated).

Participation in regional consultations and clusters

WIPO continues to cooperate with ARIPO, OAPI, the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the AU and NEPAD.

Staff members attended various meetings of these organizations with the aim of ensuring that intellectual property as a tool for economic development was at the core of the African development debates and initiatives.

A cooperation agreement was signed with COMESA and the signing of similar agreements are being discussed with CEMAC.

Furthermore, WIPO participated and gave 2 lectures in a Ministerial Round Table entitled *“Technological Innovation and Intellectual Property in the Context of NEPAD: Which Strategy for Africa?”* organized by the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) in Rabat (Morocco) in October 2003.

WIPO also participated actively in the first NEPAD Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology organized in Johannesburg in November 2003. A cooperation agreement with NEPAD was discussed during this meeting.

WIPO attended the Annual Regional Consultations of the UN Agencies Working in Africa, on May 15 and 16, 2003, and participated mainly in the cluster of

agriculture, trade and market access and intends to participate actively in the new cluster on Science and Technology, in cooperation with UNESCO.

A Regional Workshop for Industrial Property Agents and Patent Attorneys was organized in Windhoek, Namibia. 39 industrial property agents and patent attorneys participated.

A Sub-regional Seminar on Customs Administration and the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights was organized jointly with the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. 80 customs officials participated.

In cooperation with ARIPO, WIPO organized a Sub-regional Seminar on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, in Maseru, Lesotho.

WIPO participated in, and gave presentations at, the 12th Trade and Customs Committee of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), held in Lusaka (Zambia).

WIPO participated in the Meeting of the Scientific Committee of OAPI, in Dakar (Senegal), which adopted a position on the issues discussed in the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. During the meeting, it was agreed to organize the WIPO/OAPI Round Table on Policy and Legal Options for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore, which was held in Cotonou (Benin) in December 2003 to further harmonize the African position in this field.

A Round Table on Policy and Legal Options for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Cultural Expressions of Folklore was held in Kampala, Uganda. This was an initiative by

African countries members of ARIPO to harmonize their position in this field.

The WIPO/OAPI Round Table on Policy and Legal Options for the Protection of

Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore was held in Cotonou.