

# OAPI IPAS Deployment Focusing on Madrid Protocol Implementation

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# The African Intellectual Property Organization OAPI

# ABOUT OAPI

- Created on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1962
- 17 members states
- Benin, Burkina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea Conakry, Bissau Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo.
- Most recent member state is Republic of Comoros since May 2013

# ABOUT OAPI

- Headquarter in Yaoundé
- Common law : Bangui Agreement (Revised edition of 24<sup>th</sup> February 1999).
- There is revision process going on.
- One unique office. Centralize procedures
- One Unique IP Office for all membres states. Meaning there is no co-existence between the regional office and Nationals systems

# ABOUT OAPI

- Centralized registration procedures. Only the Regional office that is OAPI is mandated to grant IP Rights.
- “File once, pay one set of taxes and your creation is protected in 17 members states”

# ABOUT OAPI

- IP Rights protected at OAPI : Patents (16.000), Utility Models, Trademarks (83.000), Industrials Designs (4.800), Commercial Names (110.000), Plants Varieties (150), Geographical indications (5)
- 110 staff members

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# IPAS Deployment at OAPI



# Before IPAS

- Using in built system call **GesTitre** for IP Right Management since year 2000
- GesTitre a Windows client/server application developed with Delphi language using an Oracle Database at Back-end
- Scope covering Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Commercial Names

# Before IPAS

- Key functionalities : IP Data storage, Searches, Examination, Publication, Fees Management
- There was a need for new developments to cover more functionalities and also for using most recent technologies
- At that point decision was made in 2012 to Move to IPAS System
- GesTitre will remain for the functionalities that IPAS is not covering ex. Fees Management.

# IPAS Deployment

- Complex system to deploy involving skills in a number of domains : system architecture, project management, Java environment, Database management, system integration, operating system and backup issues, etc.
- Real need to master essential knowledge on the system before starting

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# IPAS Deployment

- Assistance of WIPO Team : Training of the IT Staff, IPAS software Installation, Creation of initial clean environments, Initial Design configurations
- Real need to master essential knowledge on the system before starting
- Intensive and detail examiners staff training by internal IT personnel

# IPAS Deployment

- Data Migration : At least to experts needed. Internal expert for the original system and IPAS data migration expert
- A clear plan to handle specific data migration issues (missing data, unexpected values, etc.)

# IPAS Deployment

- Clear migration plan between the two systems
- Internal IT staff should be available to support users
- Progressive deployment module by module : Trademarks, Madrid, EDMS, Patents, Designs, Wipo Publish, Wipo
- Need to have many environments : Training, Test, Pruduction

# IPAS Madrid Module



# Preparation for Madrid

- Decision taken by OAPI annual board meeting on December 2013
- Deposit of instrument of accession at WIPO on December 2014
- Active member since the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- Study visit in some IP office : WIPO, OAMI, Morocco, China
- Seminars for OAPI staff with WIPO experts

# Preparation for Madrid

- Creation of specialize committee for follow up
- Amendment of texts
- Validation of Madrid procedures
- Adaptation of differents Madrid Forms

# IPAS Madrid Module

- Installation IPAS Madrid 3.1.1
- Solving the Madrid port issue in case you are using more than one environment
- A specific workflow for Madrid applications
- A specific File Origin (MD), File Type (8) and Application Type
- Specifics User documents : Birth, NewName, Correction, etc
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# IPAS Madrid Module

- Download weekly notification from Madrid server with FTP Client (FileZilla)
- Upload on a Test environment
- Correction of problems
- Repeat the process in Production environment

# IPAS Madrid Module

- Main issues : Old nice version classification (6, 7), missing Vienna classes, few images missing
- Solution : Adding missing records in corresponding IPAS Tables
- Choice of changing sign type from ***Text only*** to ***Both Text and logo*** and loading correspondent file image

# IPAS Madrid Module

- Download and Upload in the system by IT staff
- Further control by Reception staff
- Examination by examiners group
- Communication with Wipo by mail
- Publication

# OAPI Headquarter in Yaoundé

