

Regional Training Workshop on Industrial Property Administration System (IPAS) for Trademark Examiners

OAPI Country Report

François Gwodog
ICT Manager, OAPI

The African Intellectual Property Organization OAPI

ABOUT OAPI

- Created on the 13th September 1962
- 17 members states actually
- 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 24th February 1999)
- New law signed in Bamako 14th December 2015. Ratification process going on
- One Unique IP Office for all members 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.
- You file once, pay one set of taxes and your creation is protected in 17 members states

ABOUT OAPI

- IP Rights protected at OAPI : Patents (17.000), Utility Models, Trademarks (88.000), Industrials Designs (4.800), Commercial Names (120.000), Plants Varieties (150), Geographical indications (5)
- 110 staff members

ABOUT OAPI

OAPI protect :

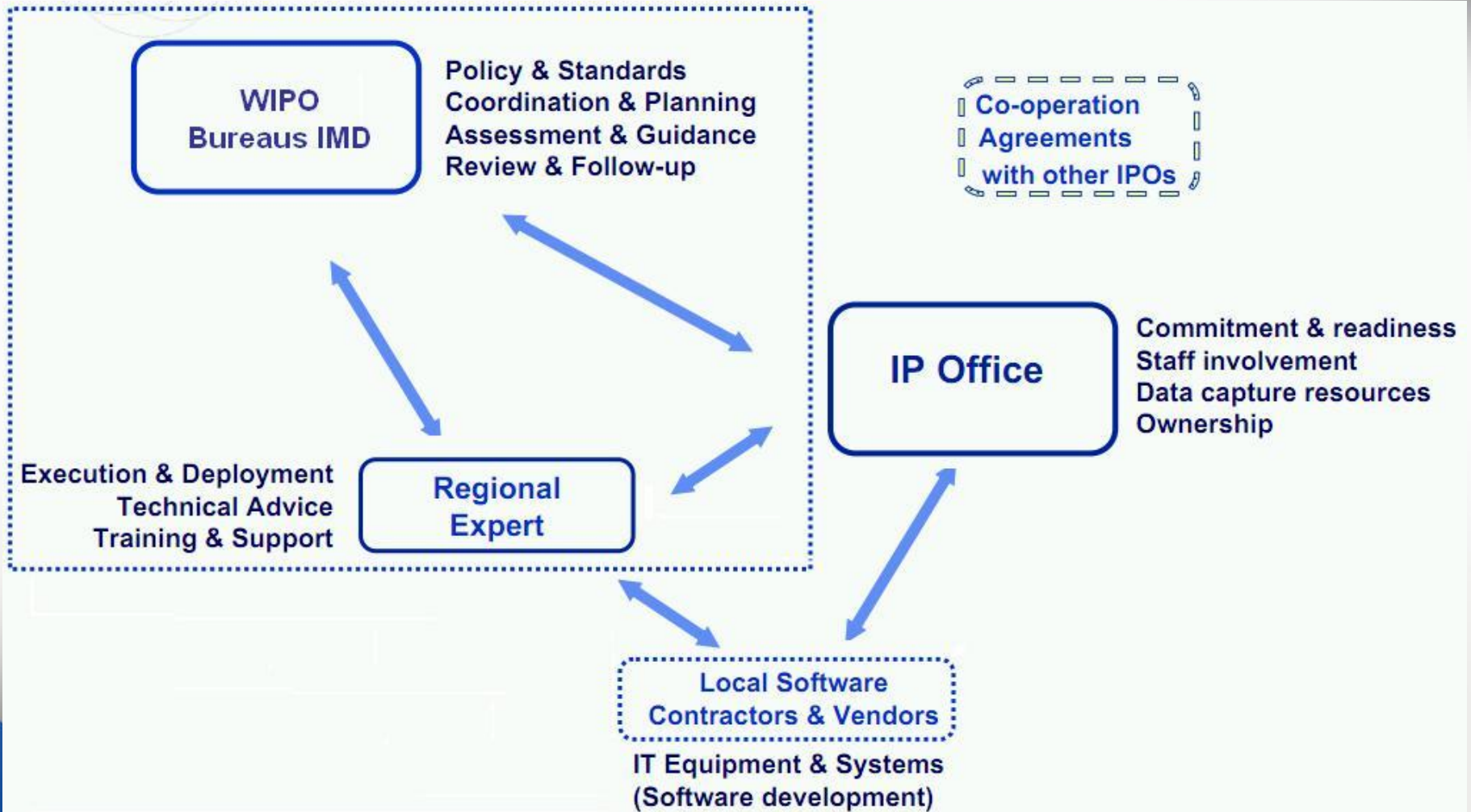
- Patents (16.000)
- Utility Model
- Trademarks (88.000)
- Industrial Designs (5.000)
- Commercial Names (120.000)
- Plant Varieties (150)
- Geographical indications (5)

OAPI Headquarter in Yaoundé



IPAS Deployment Status

Implementation & Development organization



IPAS Functionalities used

First module in production since 2015.

The following functionalities are deployed :

- Case Data Management (Key-in, Change, Business rules, Log)
- Workflow (Case lifecycle, Status Transition)
- Letter-Template (Word)
- Examination (Status)

IPAS Functionalities used

- Publication
- Issue of Certificate
- Trademark Search (Including Phonetic)
- Query (Bibliographic Data and Codes: Nice, Vienna, Locarno, IPC)
- Fee – Payment Recording

IPAS Functionalities used

- Document Tracking
- Import International Trademark (Madrid-MECA)
- Statistics
- User-Authorization Management

IPAS Deployment

The following modules are deploy :

- IPAS Web (Trademark & Patent in production, plan to extend others IP objects)
- IPAS Admin (Publication & administration)
- IPAS Manager (maintenance)
- IPAS designer (workflow management)
- Madrid Module
- WIPOScan & EDMS
- WIPO Publish (Test)
- WIPO File (Test)

IPAS Deployment

The following modules are deploy :

- Madrid Module
- WIPOScan & EDMS (Digitalization)
- WIPO Publish (Testing)
- WIPO File (Testing)

Digitalization project

Digitalization project

Started in February 2016.

- Mainly sponsored by WIPO through FIT Japan
- Manage as a separated project with specials resources
- High Involvement of the office required

Digitalization project

- Need of a dedicated team for validation of back files processing (in our case a team of 7 staff paid by OAPI)
- Good organization of files manipulations needed in order not to disturb the production environment
- Project may result in a complete physical archives system reorganization

Digitalization project

- Finish with patents documents
- More than 45.000 trademarks digitalized
- Process will continue with Designs, trade names, and the rest
- Digitalization of new files done on a daily base

Cooperation partners tools

EUIPO Tools

- OAPI is member of TMClass and very soon of DesignClass
- Working on TMView integration to publish OAPI Trademarks on that platform and later on DesignView for designs
- Studying the opportunity to use others tools made available by EUIPO (statistics, user satisfaction survey, CESTO examiners software, etc)

KIPO Projects

Objective : Upgrading intellectual property automation at OAPI

Will cover :

- Hardware equipments
- Interconnectivity with members states
- Online services
- etc

Thanks