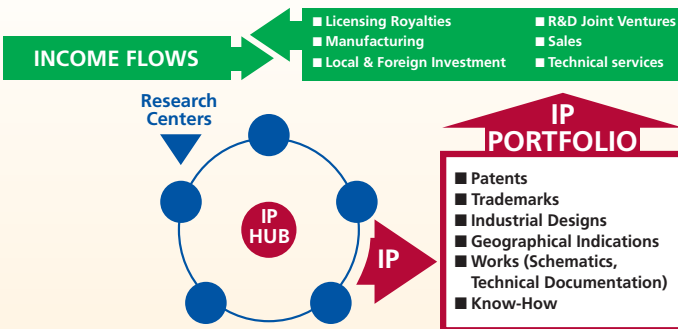


## 5. Desired Outcome by September 2006

- Health researchers at the two selected sites will be able to make choices with regard to the protection and commercial exploitation of their research results.
- A critical mass of developing country trainees (90) in three key IP-related fields will have useful skills to offer to their local research community.
- Interdisciplinary teams from many countries will have worked together to solve a common challenge.
- A model for strengthening R&D in developing countries will have been tested and will be ready to be shared internationally with the scientific community as well as with policy makers in the fields of science, technology, health and IP.

### IP HUB Supporting the R&D Network



## 6. WIPO Partner Institutions

In Central Africa:

- African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)
- Executive Secretary of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
- Organization for the Control of Large Tropical Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC)

In Colombia:

- Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC)
- National Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology (Colciencias)
- Fundación Instituto de Inmunología de Colombia (FIDIC)

In Switzerland:

- The Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN/RUIG)
- Graduate Institute of International Studies (GIIS), Geneva
- Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC), Geneva
- International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Lausanne
- Swiss Tropical Institute (STI), Basel
- Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), Geneva

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# Research Networks and Intellectual Property

A project by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with other partner institutions in Central Africa, Colombia and Switzerland, and with the support of the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN/RUIG).

September 2004 – September 2006



WORD  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION

## 1. The Project

WIPO and several partner institutions have designed an interdisciplinary project to support developing country scientists in protecting and commercializing their discoveries. The project is based on Research and Development (R&D) Networks and Intellectual Property (IP) Hubs.

### **What are Research Networks?**

Research Networks are collaborations between research institutions in which they agree to common policies and to share common services. Networks may help reduce costs and optimize resource allocation by using economies of scale.

### **What is an IP Hub?**

An IP Hub provides common legal and marketing services to the R&D Network and thereby serves a vital function in supporting and strengthening research.

### **Example**

A researcher discovers a treatment. He or she goes to the IP Hub to have a patent application drafted and also for advice on contracts. He or she also gets help with the commercial exploitation of the IP.

### **Where?**

Two selected developing country sites, the sub-region of Central Africa (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Republic of Congo) and Colombia.



## 2. Why? The Challenge Addressed by this Project

Many people in developing countries suffer from malaria, tuberculosis, sleeping sickness, sickle cell anemia, ebola and other diseases. Health professionals worldwide conduct research in an effort to find treatments and vaccines. Yet these therapies are often too expensive for poor people and difficult to distribute.

Developing country institutions and scientists using both conventional approaches and traditional medicine are engaged in important research that has potentially worldwide value. However, developing country researchers often find that it is difficult for them to protect, own and exploit their research results by using the IP system because of lack of resources, infrastructure, training, and professional (legal and marketing) services.

This leads to several consequences:

- Developing country researchers often do not own their research results or commercially exploit them;
- There is little economic return on R&D investment by developing countries and social benefits in terms of necessary therapies may be constrained;
- The end result is that developing countries may be discouraged from investing in research to solve pressing health problems.

Interdisciplinary approaches to this challenge are needed and creative solutions must be tested and evaluated. Health, research management, marketing, economics, law and policy must all come together if realistic models can be found.

## 3. Why should research institutions and scientists be interested?

Because R&D Networks with IP Hubs may:

- Facilitate legal protection for and ownership of research results;
- Provide support to manage and commercialize research results;
- Encourage win-win public-private partnerships;
- Stimulate funding for science, research and teaching; and
- Facilitate local production and distribution of medicines.



## 4. Phases of the Project

The project will have four main phases:

- 1) Audit to study the current situation;
- 2) Training of personnel in three key practical areas:
  - i. Health Research Management and Marketing
  - ii. Patent Drafting
  - iii. Licensing Contracts
- 3) Operation of the two Research Networks and IP Hubs; and
- 4) Project evaluation and sustainability strategy.