



SEYCHELLES REGISTRATION DIVISION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT SEYCHELLES

Seychelles is a group of 118 islands located 4 degrees south of the Equator. The Seychelles Archipelago is spread over and Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 Million Kilometres in the Indian Ocean. Some of the islands are granitic while others are coralline.

Seychelles has a population of approximately 90,945 (Census 2010)

IP IN SEYCHELLES

Intellectual property rights in Seychelles are governed by three pieces of legislation. They are namely; The Patents Act (1901), The Trademark Decree (1977), and The Copyright Act (1984). The three laws are administered by two different Ministries; Patents and Trademarks falls under the administration of the office of the Registrar General.

CONT'

The copy right Act falls under the purview of the Department of Culture.

In addition to the Registrar General's office and the Department of Culture, there are also several Intellectual Property Rights service providers such as the Judiciary, Police, Customs, Small Enterprise Promotion Agency and the National Arts Council

CONT'

The Government has recognized that there are shortcomings in IP development and enforcement in Seychelles and has taken various steps to improve the situation.

IP DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Following a request to WIPO by the Government of Seychelles, in January 2010 a team comprising of 2 Consultants contracted by WIPO undertook an intellectual property system evaluation and needs assessment mission to Seychelles.

CONT'

The Objectives of the mission were to;

- 1- Assess the current IP System, identify weaknesses, constraints and opportunities
- 2- Make concrete proposals with the view to defining specific needs-oriented activities and projects for implementation within the IPDP to enhance Seychelles's capacity to create, protect and make strategic use of IPRs and assets as a power tool for economic growth and development.

CONT'

The consultants examined relevant Government policies, the Patent, Trademark and Customs Laws, Various background documents provided by the stakeholders and made available on the web sites such as WIPO, WTO and appropriate Government Agencies of Seychelles.

CONT'

At the end of the Consultancy the consultants submitted an Intellectual Property Development Plan which highlighted seven action areas which the government then prioritized as follows:

1. Strengthening IP Policy Framework
2. Strengthening IP Legal Framework
3. Strengthening of IP Institutional Framework

CONT'

4. Strengthening IP Enforcement

5. Creating and Strengthening IP awareness

6. Enhancing the use of IP System

7. Linking the National IP System with the International IP System

CONT'

The Government has already started to action on the first three areas.

- 1. Strengthening IP Policy Framework**
- 2. Strengthening IP Legal Framework**
- 3. Strengthening IP Institutional Framework**

CONT'

1. Strengthening IP Policy Framework

Apart from undertaking it at national level through the creation of IP Taskforce which liaises with the various stakeholders to work on ways to strengthen the IP Police Framework. Seychelles is also receiving assistance on an International level. E.g; UNESCO sponsored Consultants

CONT'

2. Strengthening IP Legal Framework

With regards to the Legal Framework, the Seychelles Government is of the view that various legislations dealing with IP right need to be modernized. Thus work are being done in this respect.

CONT'

3. Strengthening of IP Institutional Framework

In its effort to strengthen the IP Institutional Framework the Government is in the Process of Drafting an Intellectual Property Office Bill which will centralize and consolidate most resources relating to Intellectual Property management and enforcement under one central body.

CONT'

This office will be responsible for effective Intellectual Property rights management and development in the country. Given that it will be a specialized agency; resources will be shared only for intellectual property rather than other non-related work.

CONT'

MOU with WIPO

Following the IPDP, the Government signed an MOU with WIPO in November 2010. The aim of the MOU is to delineate a framework of cooperation geared towards the implementation of the IPDP in such a manner so as to ensure that the activities highlighted in the IPDP are successfully executed and also that there is good coordination between the various stakeholders so as to better enable the Government to protect, encourage and effectively use the IP system to complement the country's development strategies

CONT'

MOU with WIPO

Following the IPDP, the Government signed an MOU with WIPO in November 2010. The aim of the MOU is to delineate a framework of cooperation geared towards the implementation of the IPDP in such a manner so as to ensure that the activities highlighted in the IPDP are successfully executed and also that there is good coordination between the various stakeholders so as to better enable the Government to protect, encourage and effectively use the IP system to complement the country's development strategies

IP OFFICE OVERVIEW

- The IP Office falls under the Purview of the Ministry of legal Affairs
- Total budget & percentage of budget allocated for ICT: 10%
- Total number of staff in the Division: 30 staff
- Total number of staff in the IP section: 3 with two vacant position

CONT'

- All staff in the section are computer literate
- New national IP legislation: New Intellectual property Act 2014
- IP Functions; Registration of Trade mark, patent, industrial design and geographical indication

IP VOLUME

- Capture data: 6000 files
- Un-Capture files: 5911 files
- Processed files: 10,000 files
- Un-processed files: 275 files
- Back log: 6186 files to be computerised

CURRENT AUTOMATION STATUS

- Scanning of documents in the IPAS system (On-going)

IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES & DIFFICULTIES

- The office is not fully computerize
- More training required to up-grade the level of the staff in the IP Section.

Benefits from previous WIPO regional training workshops

- Seychelles benefited through experiences from other countries and adapting good practices that enhanced the service delivery of the IP Section

FUTURE AUTOMATION PLANS

- New equipments (e.g; Server)
- Quality training for the staff of the section.

THANK YOU