

**Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent
Offices in Search and Examination**

The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: Gabon

Office: Gabonese Industrial Property Office/Ministry of Industry

Person to be contacted:

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Q1. How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

“Quality of patents” may refer to:

- **public policy for the development of a given country in light of the problems observed;**
- **market value or economic benefits; and**
- **compliance with the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.**

Q2. What experiences does your office have with respect to cooperation with other patent offices in the area of search and examination?

Cooperation is currently limited to the regular participation of our office in workshops and seminars organized by OAPI and the European Patent Office (EPO).

Q3. When performing on-line prior art search, patent examiners prepare a set of search queries to find relevant prior art. Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search queries with other offices?

The official website of our office is not active for technical reasons. We are therefore unable to provide users with activities concerning prior art searches or patent documents online.

However, our office is able to access the websites of regional (OAPI, EPO) and other offices of countries that are not part of an intellectual property system.

Nonetheless, having our own website remains a concern.

Q4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

(i) Platforms and tools provided by your office

(ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

The website of the Gabonese Industrial Property Office (OGAPI) is inactive for technical reasons, so we are unable to respond to foreign requests.

However, we regularly visit the websites of the OAPI, WIPO, the EPO, etc.

Q5. What are the impacts of such cooperation to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

The participation of our office in various cooperation activities can only be beneficial.

An active presence in the various activities organized by the OAPI, WIPO or the EPO, or indeed by other countries with an autonomous intellectual property protection system, makes for a greater understanding of patent law and its complexity both in the search for prior art and the preliminary examination by our office, which is a receiving office for patents for the OAPI.

Q6. What kinds of capacity building and trainings are required for cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

To ensure successful cooperation in capacity-building, we would like to see the holding of several meetings (conferences, seminars and workshops) for patent offices. Specific information sessions on patent law (technical examination, use of patent documents, etc.) would be welcome.

[End of Questionnaire]