



Summary

TITLE	The Protection of Geographical Indications (GI): Generating Empirical Evidence at Country and Product Level to Support African ACP Countries Engagement in the Doha Round Negotiations.
Applicant	ACP Group in Geneva
Duration of the Project	8 Months
Objectives of the action	<p>Overall objective</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to generate empirical evidence, based on country/sub-regional and product case studies, regarding the benefits that African members of the ACP Group can obtain from enhanced multilateral Geographical Indication (GI) protection as a basis for the African Group to engage in the Doha negotiations on the establishment of the multilateral register for wines and spirits and the proposed extension of protection to products other than wines and spirits under Article 23 of TRIPS.</p> <p>Specific Objectives</p> <p>The specific objectives of the assignment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 10-15 economically significant (ACP-based) African products that have the greatest potential to benefit from GI protection. The identification will be based on field level data collection and analysis of the product market structure; the production and distribution value chain; availability of government support for development and marketing; and cost estimates for developing, registering and enforcing GIs on these products. • Identify and study the performance of 3-5 economically significant African products that currently enjoy GI protection either through a <i>sui generis</i> system, other specific laws, and case law or through the registration of collective or certification trademarks. • Identify the main challenges facing African producers or businesses, as well as governments, in using GI protection effectively in local and international markets. • Assess the suitability of existing international GI protection regimes for the effective protection of African GIs and provide recommendations for needed changes.

Purposes of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the study is to provide evidence and arguments for African ACP countries to support additional protection for GIs for products other than wines and spirits
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Officials, Regional Intellectual Property Organisations, Producers of products to be protected under GIs, private sector business organisations and relevant research institutions in the regions to be covered by the study (West Africa, Central Africa, East and Southern Africa except South Africa).
Expertise required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is expected to be implemented by a team of experts comprising of a team Leader, key expert and other 5 experts. The Team Leader and key expert should have at least 10 years professional experience on international trade policy issues, particularly in intellectual property rights, must have demonstrated experience on research and analysis and excellent skills in the organisation, animation of workshops on IP issues. 5 other consultants will be recruited by the consultants to help in data collection and analysis. The assignment will be undertaken as follows: 56 working days for the team leader, 32 working days for the key expert and 20 working days for other experts.
Expected results	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A replicable methodology for analysing the dynamics of capturing economic value out of GIs; access to GI-protected products by local populations; the role of government in the GI framework; the costs of establishing and administering a GI regime in a country; and the costs of developing, registering and enforcing individual GIs. This can be reused by African ACP Countries to support the identification and development of GIs. An empirical study based on country/product level case studies providing practical information and evidence regarding the dynamics of capturing economic value out of GIs; access to GI-protected products by local populations; the role of government in the GI framework; the costs of establishing and administering a GI regime in a country; and the costs of developing, registering and enforcing individual GIs as well as recommendations on the optimum international framework to enable African countries capture value out of GIs. The methodology to be developed for this study will be replicable and used in other ACP regions.

Main activities	
	<p>Step 1: Develop a methodology for contacting and interviewing producer groups in Africa and other relevant stakeholders (including key agencies that have been supporting specific activities in countries such as OAPI countries, Kenya, etc.,) to obtain reliable data and information.</p> <p>Step 2: Field trips in the three African regions (Central and West Africa, East and Southern Africa).</p> <p>Step 3: Drafting the first draft of the study and organizing a facilitated expert review of the draft study.</p> <p>Step 4: Drafting final study after any further research necessitated by the feedback in the review process.</p> <p>Step 5: Expert workshop to discuss the findings and come up with specific recommendations on the Development Implications of GIs Protection in Africa and Strategies for the ongoing negotiations on GIs.</p>
Budget Estimate	€199,000.00