

4. VALORIZATION OF LOCAL

the OAPI Member countries to promote local products through the geographical indication system.

In this context, the paper underlines that protection through GIs have gotten greater political prominence and economic value with changes in the global economy.

There are however, controversial debates around the benefits gained from the GIs protection worldwide and the

to distinguish products that may not have any link with the origin of production.¹³ As such, the GI concept has various applications that are, *inter alia*, a mean of market

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- A legal procedure described in Annex 6 of the 1999 Agreement Revising the Bangui Agreement of 2 March 1977;
- A complex procedure compared to the procedures used for protecting other industrial property titles such as trademark or industrial design.

Let recall that the recognition of GI in the OAPI region is realized under two steps. The National phase for which the cooperative or association identifies the candidate products and delimitate the area, designs a Code of practice and adopt that code. Moreover, the National phase ends with the validation of GI by a National Comity of GI created in each OAPI Member. While the regional phase is about the filing of the application to OAPI by the applicant cooperative or association. It appears that the process is too long to be followed in order for producers to successfully file GI

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