



CarIPI Regional Event: Project Launch, IP Systems & GI Mentorship Programme

BELIZE

Madrid and Hague Membership

Leveraging International IP Systems: Belize's Experience with the Madrid System and Opportunities under the Hague Agreement



FACTORS BELIZE TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE ACCEEDING TO THE MADRID PROTOCOL

- Support for export-oriented businesses, particularly SMEs
- Easier access to international markets through a single application system
- Alignment with Belize's major trading partners (e.g., USA, UK, EU, Caribbean states already in Madrid)
- Potential to increase foreign direct investment by making Belize a more attractive IP jurisdiction
- Evidence from other countries in the region (e.g., Trinidad and Tobago) showing increased filings and revenue growth





BELIZE ACCESSION TO THE MADRID PROTOCOL

- March 4, 2022- The Cabinet gave approval for the Attorney General's Ministry to initiate the legislative preparations for joining the Madrid Protocol.
- November 2022- Belize became a member of the Madrid System.
- Belize became the 113th contracting party of the Madrid System.
- The Trademarks (Amendment) Act 2022 was passed to update Belize's legal framework
- Enactment of the Trademarks (Madrid Protocol) Regulations 2023, which took effect on February 24, 2023.





Applicable declarations and notifications

- Extension of the refusal period to 18 months (Article 5(2)(b) of the Protocol)
- Individual fee (Article 8(7)(a) of the Protocol)
- Declaration of intention to use the mark (Rule 7(2) of the Regulations under the Protocol)
- Recording of licenses in the International Register has no effect (Rule 20bis(6)(b) of the Regulations under the Protocol)
- Division is not provided for in the domestic law (Rule 27bis(6) of the Regulations under the Protocol)
- Merger is not provided for in the domestic law (Rule 27ter(2)(b) of the Regulations under the Protocol).



BELIPO's preparation for implementation

- CarIPI Online training on Madrid System operations- **December 2020**
- Madrid System Possible Impact Assessment for Belize- **June 2021**
- Consultation with Business Sector and IP Agent- **September 2021**
- Pre Madrid Accession Assessments- **9th December 2021**
- CarIPI Webinar on the importance and benefits of the international IPR treaties- **July 2021**



💡 BELIPO's preparation for implementation

- CarIPI Webinar on Benefits of convergence of IP systems for cross-border trade- **March 2021**
- Created a Madrid Unit within BELIPO
- Created E-mail address: madridfiling@belipo.bz
- Cleared backlog with direct filing application
- Post Madrid Accession Assessments- **March 2023**
- Post Madrid Accession Trainings with BELIPO Staff and Agents- **March 2023**





METHODS OF FILING AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

- WIPO's Madrid Filing:
<https://www.belipo.bz/trademarks/>
- Paper form (MM2): the form may be presented to the Office by email followed by in person within one month of BELIPO's receipt of the email OR just in person.
- No handling fee





TYPES OF MARKS THAT CAN BE PROTECTED



Word Marks
(or marks in standard characters)



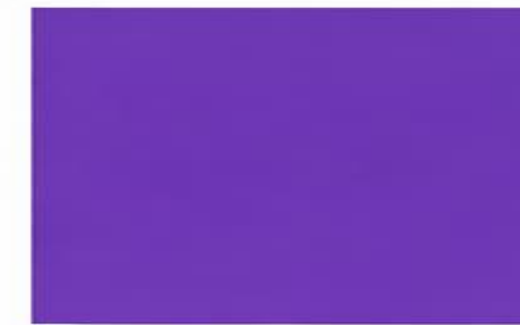
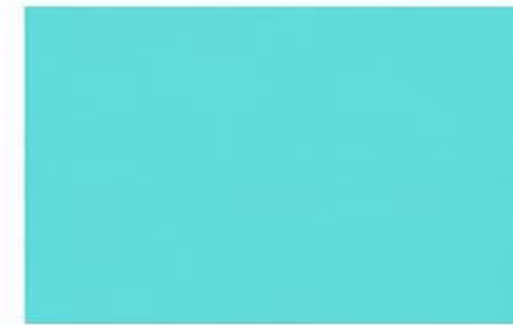
Figurative Marks
(device marks)



Combination Marks
(figurative/device + word elements)



Three-Dimensional Marks (shape marks)



Color Marks per se
(marks that comprise exclusively of color with no other features)



Color Marks per se
(marks that comprise exclusively of color with no other features)



Position Marks



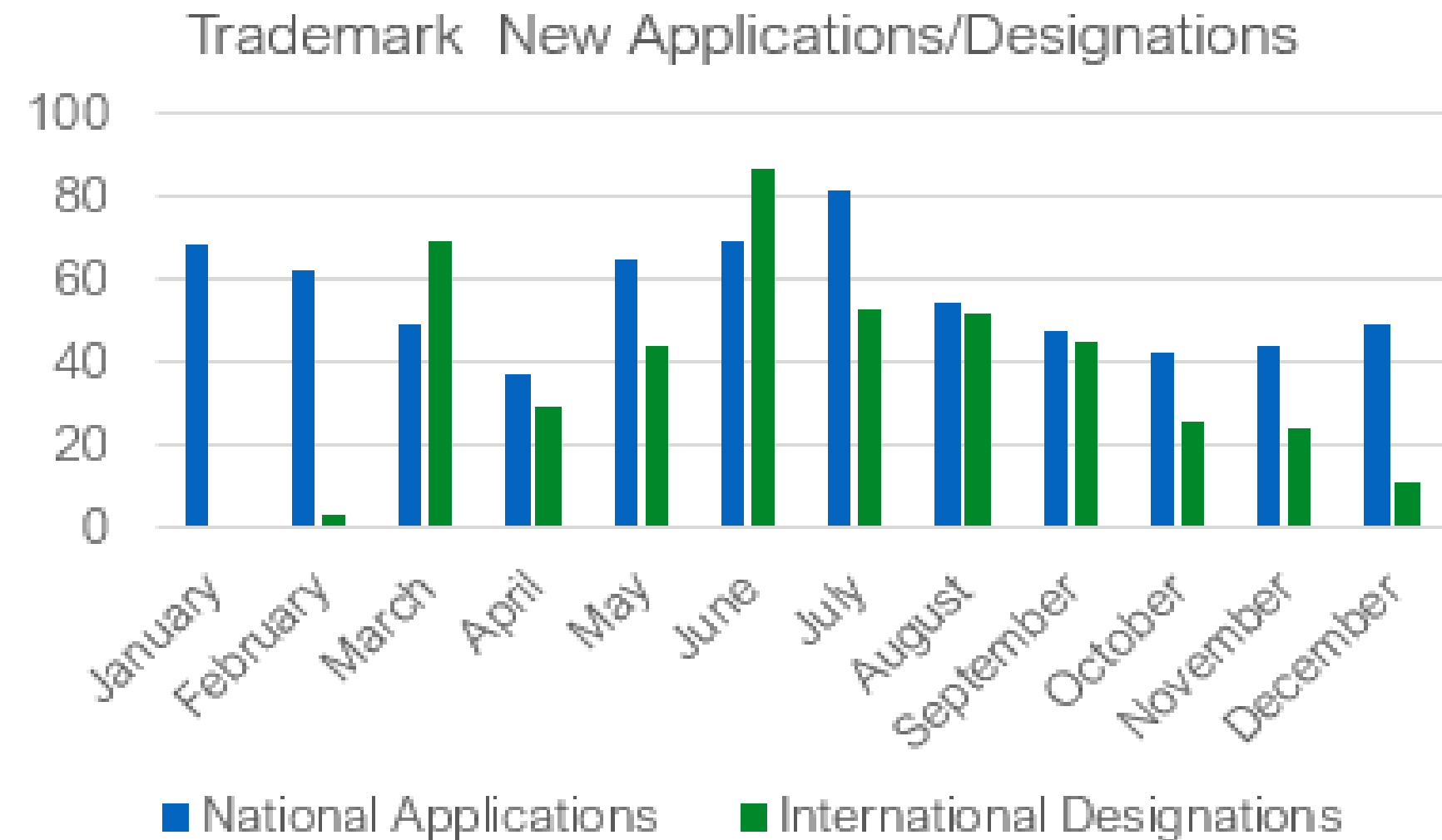
Trade-dress



National Filings vs. International Filings (2023)

The following table and chart shows the number of new Trademark applications/ designations received during the 2023 reporting period:

Month	National Filings	International Filings	Total
January	68	N/A	68
February	62	3	65
March	49	69	118
April	37	29	66
May	65	44	109
June	69	87	156
July	81	53	134
August	54	52	106
September	47	45	92
October	42	26	68
November	44	24	68
December	49	11	60
TOTAL	667	443	1110

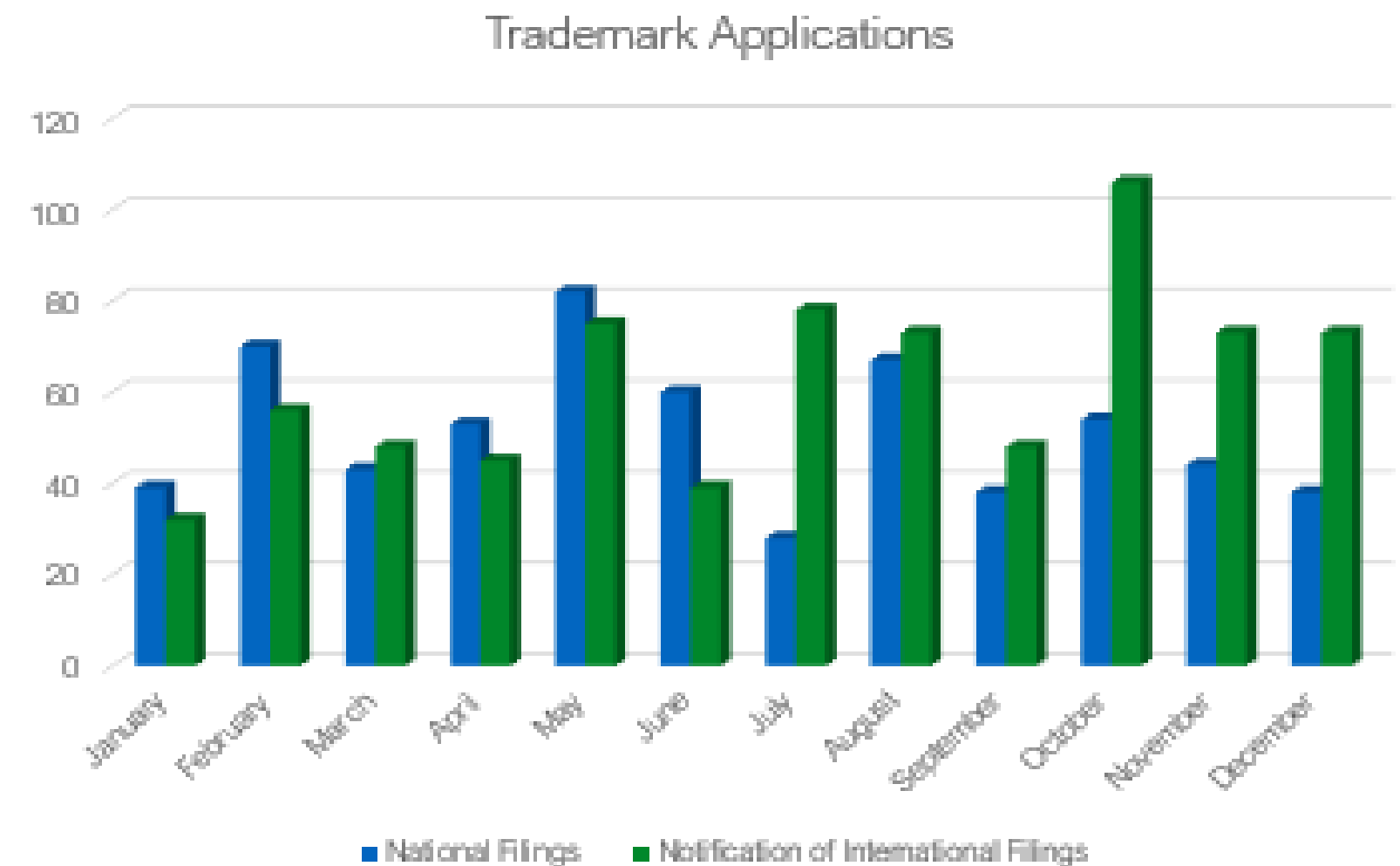




National Filings vs. International Filings (2024)

The following table and chart shows the number of new Trademark applications/ designations received during the 2024 reporting period:

Month	National Filings	Notification of International Filings	Total
January	39	32	71
February	70	56	126
March	43	48	91
April	53	45	98
May	82	75	157
June	60	39	99
July	28	78	106
August	67	73	140
September	38	48	86
October	54	106	160
November	44	73	117
December	38	73	111
TOTAL	616	746	1362

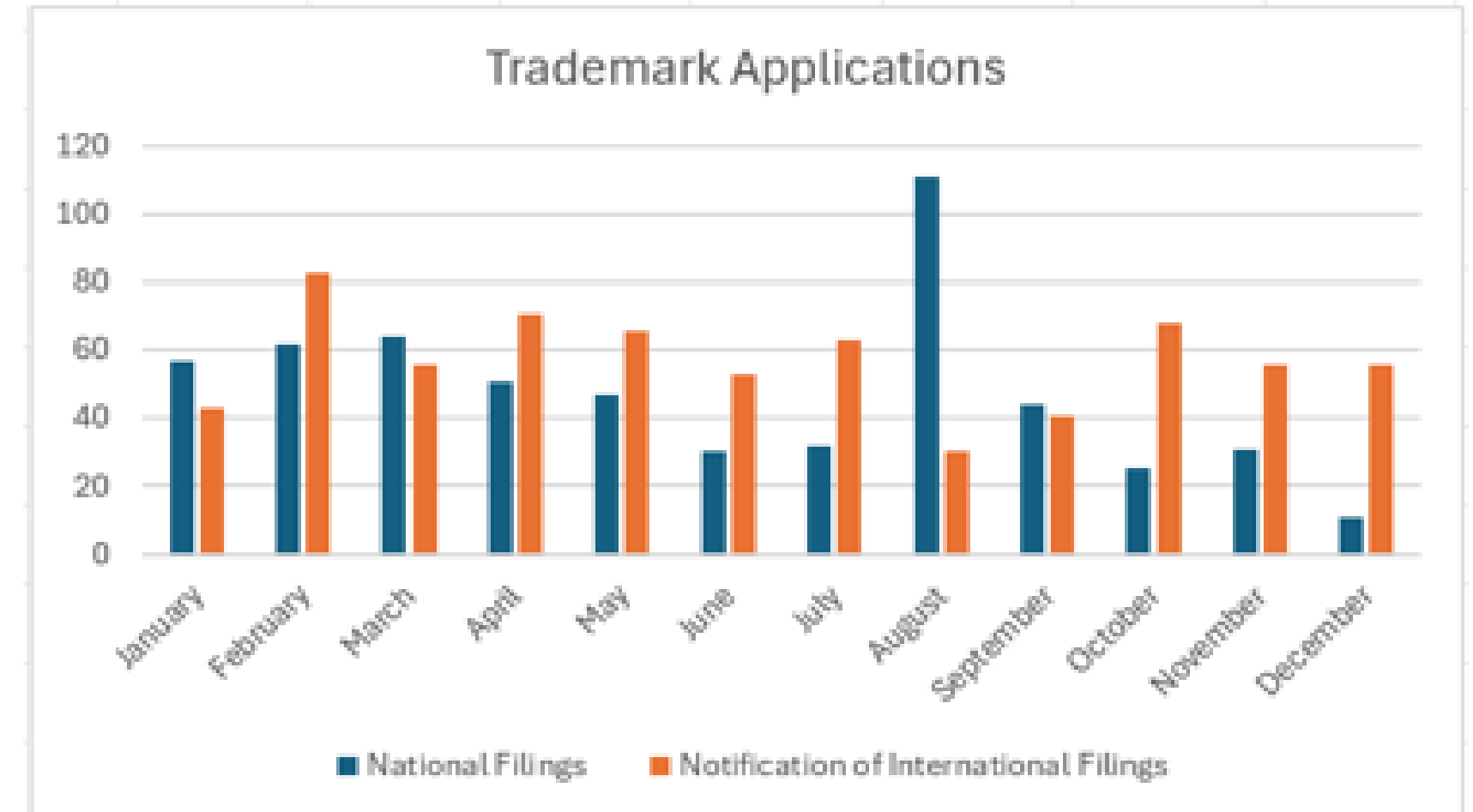




National Filings vs. International Filings (2025)

The following table and chart shows the number of new Trademark applications/ designations received during the 2025 reporting period:

Month	National Filings	Notification of International Filings	Total
January	57	43	100
February	62	83	145
March	64	56	120
April	51	71	122
May	47	66	113
June	30	53	83
July	32	63	95
August	111	30	141
September	44	41	85
October	25	68	93
November	31	56	87
December	11	56	67
TOTAL	565	686	1251





FACTORS BELIZE TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE ACCEEDING TO THE HAGUE SYSTEM

- Support for export-oriented businesses, particularly SMEs
- Easier access to international markets through a single application system
- Alignment with Belize's major trading partners (e.g., USA, UK, EU)
- Potential to increase foreign direct investment by making Belize a more attractive IP jurisdiction
- Evidence from other countries showing increased filings and revenue growth





BELIZE ACCESSION TO THE MADRID PROTOCOL

Jun 17, 2003 – Accession to the 1960 Act: Belize

Nov 29, 2018 – Accession to the 1999 Act: Belize





Applicable declarations and notifications

- **Prohibition of filing through the Office | Article 4(1)(b)**

International applications may not be filed through the BELIPO.

- **Deferred publication for a period which is less than 30 months | Article 11(1)(a)**

The maximum period for the deferment of publication of an industrial design provided for by the legislation of Belize is 12 months from the priority date.

- **Maximum duration of protection under the national law | Article 17(3)(c)**

The maximum duration of protection provided for by the legislation of Belize in respect of industrial designs is 15 years, subject to payment of fees.





Examination Procedure

- BELIPO does not carry out a substantive examination.
- BELIPO does not republish international registrations or renewals.





STATISTICS FOR THE LAST FIVE (5) YEARS

2020- 80 designations for 257 designs
2021- 89 designations for 294 designs
2022- 93 designations for 190 designs
2023- 131 designations for 232 designs
2024- 121 designations for 327 designs



THANK YOU!

For any additional information, please
feel free to contact us at:

E-mail: Info@belipo.bz

Telephone: 822-1381 / 822-2073

Address: #6129 Brown Street, Belmopan,
Cayo

