



PATENTS IN AFRICA



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:	METHODS OF TREATMENT	EXTENSION OF PATENT TERM AVAILABLE	SUBSTANTIVE EXAMINATION	PROVISION FOR UTILITY MODEL	SURCHARGES PAYABLE	LANGUAGE(S)
ARIPO	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
ALGERIA	Not allowed	No	Yes	No	Yes	French or Arabic
ANGOLA	Pharmaceutical products not patentable	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portuguese
BENIN**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
BOTSWANA*	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	English
BURKINA FASO**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
BURUNDI	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	Yes	French
CAMEROON**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
CAPE VERDE*	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	No	Portuguese
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
CHAD**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
COMOROS**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF	Allowed	No	No	No	No	French
DJIBOUTI	Not allowed	No	No	No	No	French & English
EGYPT	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	Arabic
EQUATORIAL GUINEA**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
ERITREA	NO PATENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE AT THIS POINT IN TIME					
ESWATINI* (SWAZILAND)	REGISTRATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN PATENTS PERMITTED / UK PATENTS EXTEND AUTOMATICALLY					
ETHIOPIA	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English or Amharic
GABON**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
GAMBIA*	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English
GHANA*	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	English
GUINEA**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
GUINEA-BISSAU**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
IVORY COAST**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
KENYA*	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
LESOTHO*	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English
LIBERIA*	Pharmaceutical products not patentable	No	No	Yes	No	English
LIBYA	Allowed	Yes	No	No	No	Arabic
MADAGASCAR	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	French or Malagassy

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MALAWI*	Allowed	Yes	Yes	No	No	English
MALI**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
MAURITANIA**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
MAURITIUS	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	English
MOROCCO	Not allowed	Yes, pharma patents only	Yes	No	Yes	French or Arabic
MOZAMBIQUE*	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	Portuguese
NAMIBIA*	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	No	English
NIGER**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
NIGERIA	Allowed	No	No	Yes	No	English
OAPI	Not allowed	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	English or French
RWANDA*	Pharmaceutical products not patentable	No	No	Yes	No	French
SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE*	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	No	Portuguese
SENEGAL**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
SEYCHELLES*	Not allowed	No	Yes (not for PCT)	Yes	No	English
SIERRA LEONE*	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	No	English
SOMALIA	NO PATENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE AT THIS POINT IN TIME					
SOUTH AFRICA	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	No	English
SOUTH SUDAN	NO PATENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE AT THIS POINT IN TIME					
ST HELENA	REGISTRATION OF UK PATENTS PERMITTED					
SUDAN*	Allowed	No	No	Yes	No	English
TANZANIA* (TANGANYIKA)	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English
TOGO**	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI	OAPI
TUNISIA	Not allowed	No	Yes	No	Yes	English & French
UGANDA*	Pharmaceutical products not patentable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English
ZAMBIA*	Not allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	English
TANZANIA* (ZANZIBAR)	Not allowed	Yes, only if grant was delayed	No	Yes	No	English
ZIMBABWE*	Not allowed	No	No	Yes	No	English

* Denotes an ARIPO member state. Patent protection can be obtained via ARIPO or through a national filing.

** Denotes an OAPI member state.

• For OAPI member states – see answers under OAPI.



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Adams & Adams
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