



PATENTS IN AFRICA



ARIPO COUNTRIES (20 members)
OAPI COUNTRIES (17 members)

- ADAMS & ADAMS OFFICES:**
 Pretoria | Johannesburg | Cape Town | Durban
- ASSOCIATE OFFICES:**
 Angola | Botswana | Burundi | Cameroon (OAPI) | Cape Verde
 Egypt | Eswatini | Ethiopia | Ghana | Kenya | Lesotho
 Liberia | Libya | Mauritius | Mozambique (ARIPO) | Namibia
 Nigeria | Sierra Leone | São Tomé and Príncipe
 Tanzania (including Zanzibar) | The Gambia | Zimbabwe

ADAMS & ADAMS
 Realise African Enterprise

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 Malagasy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:	METHODS OF TREATMENT	EXTENSION OF PATENT TERM AVAILABLE	SUBSTANTIVE EXAMINATION	PROVISION FOR UTILITY MODEL	SURCHARGES PAYABLE	LANGUAGE(S)
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.



PRETORIA OFFICE

Lynnwood Bridge, 4 Daventry Street,
Lynnwood Manor, Pretoria, South Africa

PO BOX 1014, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

PHONE +27 12 432 6000

FAX +27 12 432 6599

EMAIL mail@adams.africa

JOHANNESBURG OFFICE

2nd Floor, 34 Fredman Drive
(Cnr. 5th Street), Sandton, South Africa

PO BOX 10155, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa

PHONE +27 11 895 1000

FAX +27 11 784 2888 (CPL)

+27 11 784 2872 (Patents)

+27 11 784 2889 (Trade Marks)

EMAIL jhb@adams.africa

CAPE TOWN OFFICE

22nd Floor, 2 Long Street, Cnr. Long Street and
Hans Strijdom Avenue, Cape Town, South Africa

PO BOX 1513, Cape Town 8000, South Africa

PHONE +27 21 402 5000

FAX +27 21 418 9216 (Patents)

+27 21 419 5729 (Trade Marks)

EMAIL cpt@adams.africa

DURBAN OFFICE

Suite 2, Level 3, Ridgeside Office Park,
21 Richefond Circle, Umhlanga Ridge,
Durban, South Africa

PO BOX 237, Umhlanga Rocks 4320, South Africa

PHONE +27 31 536 3740

FAX +27 31 536 8254

EMAIL dbn@adams.africa

Adams & Adams
is uniquely placed
to help fulfil the
continent's potential

ADAMS & ADAMS

Realise African Enterprise

ASSOCIATE OFFICES

ANGOLA

angola@adams.africa

BOTSWANA

botswana@adams.africa

BURUNDI

burundi@adams.africa

CAMEROON (OAPI)

cameroon@adams.africa
oapi@adams.africa

CAPE VERDE

capeverde@adams.africa

EGYPT

egypt@adams.africa

ESWATINI (SWAZILAND)

eswatini@adams.africa

ETHIOPIA

ethiopia@adams.africa

GHANA

ghana@adams.africa

KENYA

kenya@adams.africa

LESOTHO

lesotho@adams.africa

LIBERIA

liberia@adams.africa

LIBYA

libya@adams.africa

MAURITIUS

mauritus@adams.africa

MOZAMBIQUE (ARIPO)

aripo@adams.africa
maputo@adams.africa

NAMIBIA

namibia@adams.africa

NIGERIA

nigeria@adams.africa

SIERRA LEONE

sierraleone@adams.africa

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

saotomeprincipe@adams.africa

TANZANIA

(including Zanzibar)
tanzania@adams.africa

THE GAMBIA

thegambia@adams.africa

ZIMBABWE

zimbabwe@adams.africa

ATTORNEYS

Patents | Trade Marks | Copyright | Designs | Commercial | Real Estate | Dispute Resolution

www.adams.africa

