



PATENTS IN AFRICA



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PATENTS IN AFRICA

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

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	No	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	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.)

*** Only for cases filed after 1 January 2026.



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is uniquely placed
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