



COUNTRY UPDATES

INNOVATION. DIGITISATION. IMPACT.

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of our **Africa IP Update**, your monthly snapshot of the regulatory developments, legal trends and regional activity shaping intellectual property across Africa.

This month, we highlight:

- ARIPO's continued efforts to strengthen innovation ecosystems
- OAPI's expanding international cooperation and capacity-building initiatives
- Kenya's proposed national IP reforms and new online filing system
- Tunisia's transition to a fully digital IP platform

You will also find updates from Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde.

Take a closer look at what's driving change in Africa's evolving IP environment in the stories below.

Should you have any Africa IP queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at marketing@adams.africa so we can direct the query accordingly.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the latest IP developments in Africa and how Adams & Adams can best assist you.



ARIPO

WIPO and ARIPO strengthen Africa's innovation ecosystem

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), with support from the Japan Patent Office, convened the annual Regional Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Network Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 29 and 30 June 2026.

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OAPI

Niger accedes to the Marrakesh Treaty

The Republic of Niger, a member state of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), has acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

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OAPI

OAPI highlights IP's role in African craft innovation

At the Ninth International Handicrafts Fair of Cameroon (SIARC 2026), held in Yaoundé from 27 July to 5 August, the OAPI showcased the importance of IP protection in promoting innovation and competitiveness within Africa's craft sector.

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OAPI

Côte d'Ivoire hosts fourth Africa GI training programme

OAPI has launched the fourth edition of the Africa GI Training programme in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, bringing together 18 participants from 13 member states.

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OAPI

OAPI expands international cooperation at WIPO General Assemblies 2026

During the 2026 WIPO General Assemblies held in Geneva on 7-15 July, OAPI continued a series of high-level engagements aimed at strengthening international cooperation and promoting innovation across its member states.

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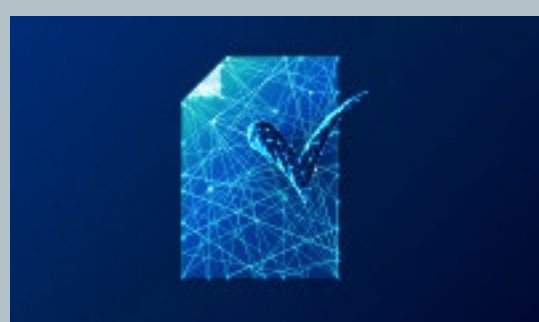


KENYA

Kenya introduces new online IP filing system

The Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) launched a new online filing system, which is now accessible through the KIPI website.

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KENYA

Kenya advances national IP reform

Kenya's Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry recently published a draft National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (NIPPS) for public comment.

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KENYA

Key takeaways from Kenya's new IP Bill

The administration of IP in Kenya is currently fragmented. The KIPI administers patents, trade marks, utility models and industrial designs under the Industrial Property Act and the Trade Marks Act.

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GHANA

Ghana becomes first African country to sign APG agreement with the USPTO

Ghana has become the first African country to enter into an Accelerated Patent Grant (APG) arrangement with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), marking a significant milestone in international patent cooperation.

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NAMIBIA

Namibia modifies IP filing fee structure

Amendments to the Namibian Industrial Property Regulations came into effect on 1 July 2026, introducing changes to the payment of official filing fees.

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NIGERIA

Nigeria strengthens enforcement through anti-piracy partnership

Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at combating drug trafficking and copyright piracy through enhanced inter-agency cooperation.

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TUNISIA

Tunisia's IP office goes digital

On 24 June 2026, Tunisia's IP office, the National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI), launched its digital industrial property system.

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SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone strengthens IP framework

Sierra Leone has taken a significant step towards modernising its IP regime following Parliament's unanimous ratification of several key international IP treaties and protocols in July 2026.

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CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde aligns trade mark renewal term with filing date

Following the entry into force of Cape Verde's new Intellectual Property Code, the calculation of a trade mark registration's term has been amended.

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Strengthening IP Partnerships and Digital Progress in Botswana

Towards the end of July, Adams & Adams Partner, Eugene Honey, and Africa Practice Manager, Menzi Maboyi, travelled to Gaborone to visit our Associate Office, other local partners and the Companies and Intellectual Property Agency (CIPA).

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L-R: Menzi Maboyi, Assistant Registrar; Ms Malebogo Selemogo, Registration Officer; Ms Tduetso Mautle, Chikondi Banda, Patents Officer; Mr Qualitus Ketjimambo, Trade Mark Examiner; Basadi Badirwang, and Eugene Honey

