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

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