



COUNTRY UPDATES

MILESTONES. REFORM. INNOVATION.

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

This month, we highlight:

- OAPI's historic first Lisbon System registrations for Madd de Casamance and Penja Pepper
- ARIPO's continued engagement with Tanzania to strengthen regional IP cooperation
- Kenya's proposed restructuring of its intellectual property administration
- Nigeria's landmark copyright ruling over ownership of the hit song "Way Maker"

You will also find updates from Ghana, South Africa and Egypt.

Read on to explore the developments shaping Africa's dynamic IP landscape this month.

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.

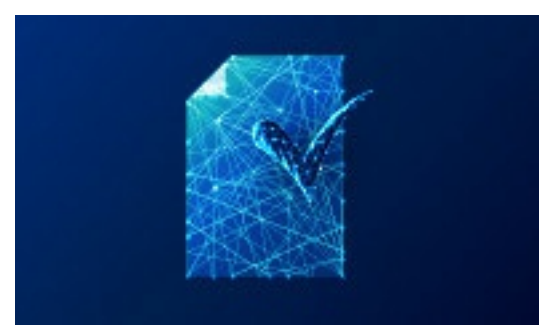


ARIPO

ARIPO strengthens engagement with Tanzania

ARIPO continues to deepen engagement with its Member States, with Tanzania being the latest focus of discussions at the regional level.

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OAPI

Historic Registration: Madd de Casamance and Penja Pepper Enter the Lisbon System

On 20 August 2026, Senegal's Madd from Casamance and Cameroon's Penja Pepper received their international registration certificates at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

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OAPI

OAPI rejects AFP opposition against AFO + Logo

In a decision dated 19 May 2026, OAPI rejected Agence France-Presse (AFP)'s opposition against the "AFO + Logo" mark, which was opposed on the basis of AFP's earlier "AFP + Logo" mark.

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OAPI

Côte d'Ivoire advances protection and recognition of its shea butter

Côte d'Ivoire is taking further steps to enhance the recognition and commercial value of its shea butter.

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NIGERIA

Nigeria clarifies copyright ownership of musical works

The Federal High Court in Lagos has dismissed a 5 billion copyright claim brought by music producer Michael Oluwale against Nigerian gospel artiste Sinach in relation to her internationally successful song "Way Maker".

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NIGERIA

Nigerian Court of Appeal upholds refusal of COSON injunction

The Court of Appeal in Lagos has dismissed an interlocutory appeal brought by the Copyright Society of Nigeria (COSON) against the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), affirming the Federal High Court's refusal to restrain the Commission from taking regulatory action against COSON.

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NIGERIA

A new framework for IP-backed finance in Nigeria

Nigeria is taking steps to make intellectual property a more commercially usable financial asset.

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KENYA

Kenya proposes major restructuring of its intellectual property system

Kenya is considering a major restructuring of its intellectual property system under the Kenya Intellectual Property Bill, 2026.

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KENYA

Building Africa's next generation of plant breeders

More than 40 emerging plant breeders and researchers from 10 African countries participated in a series of training programmes in Nairobi under the VACS Capacity Project, focusing on quantitative genetics, genomic analysis and digital breeding tools.

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GHANA

Supporting trade mark protection for Ghanaian women entrepreneurs

Ghana is strengthening intellectual property awareness among women-led agribusinesses through a collaboration between the Registrar-General's Department, through the Ghana Industrial Property Office (GIPO), WIPO and the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

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GHANA

Pharmaceutical R&D and IP commercialisation gain momentum in Ghana

Eight Ghanaian research-industry partnerships have received €2 million in grants under the PharmaVax Ghana programme to advance vaccine and pharmaceutical R&D, including projects involving malaria treatments and AI-assisted antibody discovery.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Turning locally developed IP into battery-sector opportunities

South Africa is seeking to strengthen its position in the global electric mobility and battery value chains by supporting the development and commercialisation of locally developed technologies and intellectual property.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Track-and-trace measures target illicit goods

South Africa is stepping up cooperation between the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the National Consumer Commission (NCC) to combat illicit goods.

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EGYPT

Healthcare technology investment fund under consideration

Egypt is exploring the establishment of a dedicated investment fund for biotechnology, medical devices and digital health technologies.

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