

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 99

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Launch of the 6th edition of the intermediate training

African Regional Youth Conference on Intellectual Property

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GI Technical Working Group on the African GI Consultative Committee to discuss draft final evaluation report on the Continental Strategy on Geographical Indications in Africa 2018-2023

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OAPI at the @creativeafricanexus Weekend 2024 edition in Algiers, Algeria

OAPI and Government of Burkina Faso, is organizing an International Conference on the promotion of Industrial Designs and Models in its member states

In Ouagadougou, OAPI gives value to designs

General Assembly on Intellectual Property as part of CEIPI 60th Anniversary

Intellectual Property Education: The Point of View of the Director General of OAPI

OAPI and ARIPO: a common vision

OAPI took part in the 48th Session of the ARIPO Board of Directors

International Conference on the Promotion of Industrial Designs (DMI)

**Somalia:** Somalia & Somaliland: Trademark Law in the Heart of the Horn of Africa

**South Africa:** More than R11 million of illicit cigarettes and counterfeit goods removed from the streets of Frances Baard District

Science and Innovation on success of intellectual property workshop

SA Competition Tribunal prohibits Vodacom-Maziv deal

**Uganda:** Stakeholders Urge Intellectual Property Protection for Uganda's Heritage

**Zambia:** PACRA Bulletin July-September 2024 Edition

**Zimbabwe:** Reprographic Rights Organization gets licensed

**News**

**1. Important topics**

**Africa: Africa IPSME Helpdesk offers free first-line IP assistance service for European SMEs<sup>1,2</sup>**

The EUIPO, as part of the EU-funded #AfricaIPSMEHelpdesk initiative, now offers FREE first-line IP assistance to European SMEs operating or planning to access the African market. SMEs can send their IP questions and receive a customized response from IP experts within 3 working days. The service covers IP protection and enforcement in African countries and is available in English and French. All inquiries are confidential and comply with EU data protection regulations. The helpdesk can be contacted by email at [africa.iphelpdesk@euipo.europa.eu](mailto:africa.iphelpdesk@euipo.europa.eu) or by phone at Europe (Spain): +34 965 139 810.

**Ethiopia: The Council of Ministers approves the Paris Industrial Property Convention draft proclamation to the House of Representatives<sup>3,4</sup>**

The Council of Ministers in Ethiopia has approved two draft bills related to international treaties on industrial property protection and trademark registration. The first bill concerns Ethiopia's accession to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, which mandates member countries to provide protection for various types of intellectual property such as patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and more. Adopting this treaty is seen as a step toward Ethiopia's goal of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), helping address WTO member countries' concerns about industrial property protection. The second bill pertains to the Madrid Protocol, which facilitates the international registration and protection of trademarks. This law aims to provide a legal framework for Ethiopian businesses to protect their trademarks globally. Both bills were passed by the Council and are now set to be reviewed and ratified by the Ethiopian parliament.

**Kenya: Integration with eCitizen Payment Gateway Complete<sup>5</sup>**

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has completed its integration with the eCitizen payment gateway, in line with a presidential directive on government service payments. As a result, all ACA import permit applications must now be submitted via the Trade Facilitation Platform (TFP) at <https://tfp.kenyatradenet.go.ke>, which supports payments through the eCitizen gateway. Additionally, ACA's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) recordation services, including applications for recording, renewing, or transferring IPR, as well as other related services, can now be paid through eCitizen. ACA's enforcement services, including fines and applications for various actions (e.g., compounding offenses, seizure of counterfeit goods, inspections, etc.), are also payable via M-Pesa Pay bill 222 222. A detailed fee structure

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7250066704804851712-r7mC/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7250066704804851712-r7mC/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>2</sup> [https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/africa-ip-sme-helpdesk/africa-ask-question\\_en](https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/africa-ip-sme-helpdesk/africa-ask-question_en)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ethiopianmonitor.com/2024/10/01/council-approves-draft-legislations-protecting-intellectual-property-trademarks/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=917399967077227&id=100064216956705&mibextid=qj2Omg&rdid=JcG5rsPALWqrLloF](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=917399967077227&id=100064216956705&mibextid=qj2Omg&rdid=JcG5rsPALWqrLloF)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/523-integration-with-ecitizen-payment-gateway-complete>

is provided, with account numbers for each service listed. ACA will not accept payments directly to its bank accounts.

### **Namibia: Appointment of Ainna V. Kaundu as new Acting CEO<sup>6</sup>**

On October 21, 2024, it was announced that Ainna V. Kaundu has been appointed as Acting CEO at the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) in Namibia until a substantive CEO is appointed. She has previously served as the Executive of Intellectual Property Services within BIPA.

### **Nigeria: Minister to launch IP policy for creative economy<sup>7,8</sup>**

On October 14, 2024, Nigeria's Minister of Art, Culture, and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musawa, announced the launch of the revised National Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for the creative economy. The policy aims to strengthen IP protection, boost investment, and empower Nigeria's creative sectors. Doris Nkiruka Uzoka-Anite, Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, assured that the government is committed to updating outdated IP laws and protecting creators' rights. Both ministers spoke at a stakeholder forum in Abuja, marking the final steps before the policy is presented to the Federal Executive Council for approval.

### **OAPI: Set to go digital<sup>9</sup>**

OAPI is going digital to enhance its services, providing faster IP protection and a more efficient system for all users. This digital transformation will increase accessibility, speed up processes and ensure transparency. These improvements aim to support innovators and businesses across the continent, making IP services more streamlined and user-friendly.

### **OAPI Higher Appeals Commission: Final Session 2024<sup>10,11</sup>**

The Higher Commission of Appeal (CSR) of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) began its final session of 2024 on October 21 at OAPI's headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The two-week session reviewed 11 cases. In line with OAPI's modernization efforts, the session adopted a hybrid format, combining in-person and remote participation. This approach enhanced broader participation from sector professionals and stakeholders, increased accessibility to intellectual property justice and optimization of legal procedures. The session saw strong participation, with around 15 professionals attending physically and others joining via videoconference from OAPI member states. Deliberations by the magistrates continued on October 29.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=953821833446099&id=100064548743845&rdid=A7Pedr2m3cFd3RYI](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=953821833446099&id=100064548743845&rdid=A7Pedr2m3cFd3RYI)

<sup>7</sup> <https://thenationonlineng.net/minister-to-launch-ip-policy-for-creative-economy-next-week/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://guardian.ng/news/ministries-collaborate-to-revalidate-the-intellectual-property-policy/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=557820283433202&id=100076157045831&rdid=bMEHfuyYUn2NQb6#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=557820283433202&id=100076157045831&rdid=bMEHfuyYUn2NQb6#)

<sup>10</sup> <http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/915-commission-sup%C3%A9rieure-de-recours-de-l-oapi-session-finale-2024>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-oapi-csr-activity-7257030749193736193-npHU/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-oapi-csr-activity-7257030749193736193-npHU/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

**South Africa: Legal action taken to compel the President to sign the Copyright Amendment Bill into law**<sup>12,13, 14,15</sup>

SECTION27, representing Blind SA, has filed an urgent application with South Africa's Constitutional Court against President Cyril Ramaphosa for failing to sign the Copyright Amendment Bill. The bill, passed by Parliament in February 2023, addresses the rights of blind and visually impaired people to access reading materials. The Constitutional Court had ruled in 2022 that the Copyright Act was unconstitutional, as it restricted the conversion of books into accessible formats without copyright holder consent. Despite a September 21, 2024 deadline for Parliament to amend the law, the President has not signed the bill. Blind SA is seeking an order to compel Ramaphosa to sign the bill within 10 days or reinstate the previous court-ordered exception. The Constitutional Court will hear two related applications in November regarding the rights of blind people to convert copyright works into accessible formats.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Africa:**

Upcoming Activities: Legal and technical assistance for the AfCFTA Secretariat for the phase II IPR  
<https://afripi.org/en/activities/legal-and-technical-assistance-afcfta-secretariat-phase-ii-ipr-negotiations>

Energizing Africa: Exploring Renewable Energy Opportunities

<https://afripi.org/en/news/afripi-and-africa-ip-sme-helpdesk-how-ip-contributes-sustainable-growth-and-development-within> (08.10.2024);

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7254521022983397376-N8ba/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7254521022983397376-N8ba/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (24.10.2024)

IPRs Horror Stories from Around the World Webinar

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7257315556968570881-CKZI/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_africaipsmehelpdesk-activity-7257315556968570881-CKZI/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (30.10.2024)

### **Algeria:**

"Protection of Intellectual Property Rights" Seminar by SAFEEX Algeria

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<sup>12</sup> <https://allafrica.com/stories/202410100345.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.iol.co.za/the-star/news/section27-hauls-ramaphosa-to-concourt-over-copyright-amendment-bill-delay-ca017d80-f65c-4c92-bf9b-4cee6ccac84f>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.iol.co.za/mercury/news/urgent-application-filed-against-president-ramaphosa-over-copyright-amendment-bill-e4697048-4f59-4ba3-9c61-70d8ec925ec5>

<sup>15</sup> <https://allafrica.com/stories/202410240026.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/fJXbHaQxTlm3W3J4/> (16.10.2024)

**ARIPO:**

ARIPO and IGQPI seminar

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_ip-activity-7249400846432559104-QO3u/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_ip-activity-7249400846432559104-QO3u/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (08.10.2024)

EUIPO and ARIPO Collaborate to Strengthen Trade Mark Examination Skills Across Africa

<https://afripi.org/en/news/euipo-and-aripo-collaborate-strengthen-trade-mark-examination-skills-across-africa> (14.10.2024)

**Egypt:**

With the participation of the Ministers of Higher Education and Environment, the National Research Center organizes a conference on patents in food security

<https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/3289677> (23.10.2024)

**Ethiopia:**

A project that strengthens intellectual property rights in the field of art in Ethiopia

<https://www.facebook.com/100064216956705/posts/918992940251263/?rdid=f6XTY87ybVIO9oBL>  
(03.10.2024)

Protection of Copyright and Related Rights - Stakeholders discussion focused on the challenges and challenges of the authorities on the protection of the rights of the rights of Kijina and related rights

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/rjrAvMqWv79Zb5CQ/> (11.10.2024)

Training on registering and protecting the official trademark with Wolayta Zone Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Industry Market Development Office, Trade and Sector Associations, Manufacturers and Service Providers and Trade Institutions

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/8HtswLz3b1ts26Bq/> (11.10.2024)

Project launched to strengthen intellectual property rights in Ethiopia's arts sector

<https://capitalethiopia.com/2024/10/14/project-launched-to-strengthen-intellectual-property-rights-in-ethiopias-arts-sector/> (14.10.2024)

Draft GI Proclamation Consultation Workshop

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=928825682601322&id=100064216956705&rdid=vXp pNRqLhbmG454y#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=928825682601322&id=100064216956705&rdid=vXp pNRqLhbmG454y#) (16.10.2024)

Traditional medicine knowledge transition and intellectual property protection

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/QrL3iUDWAocjDtcp/> (17.10.2024)

Discussion on the draft declaration of registration and protection of Melkea's indicative products

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=933208088829748&id=100064216956705&rdid=58K3LcZoc64OsEDR](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=933208088829748&id=100064216956705&rdid=58K3LcZoc64OsEDR) (22.10.2024)

**Kenya:**

Key Insights from the WIPO-KeNIA IP Executive Course: Unlocking the Business Value of Intellectual Property

<https://www.innovationagency.go.ke/blog/key-insights-from-the-wipo-kenia-ip-executive-courseunlocking-the-business-value-of-intellectual-property> (01.10.2024)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority - Kenya team visit to Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM)

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_today-the-anti-counterfeit-authority-kenya-activity-7247218911497080834-4bni?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_today-the-anti-counterfeit-authority-kenya-activity-7247218911497080834-4bni?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (02.10.2024)

Strengthening Integrity in Procurement: A Potential Collaboration Between ACA and KISM

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/524-strengthening-integrity-in-procurement-a-potential-collaboration-between-aca-and-kism> (03.10.2024)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority in Kenya gathering perspectives from stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive understanding of needs and experiences related to intellectual property in Kenya

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_dear-creatives-were-reaching-out-to-you-activity-7251599771272904704-ciLp?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_dear-creatives-were-reaching-out-to-you-activity-7251599771272904704-ciLp?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (15.10.2024)

ACA sensitization program aimed at raising awareness among local traders on the dangers of counterfeit goods and illicit trade

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=562513756295740&id=100076113615550&rdid=JErlZquKOB0eNW0D](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=562513756295740&id=100076113615550&rdid=JErlZquKOB0eNW0D) (18.10.2024)

Department of Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection (DHS-CBP) visit to Anti-Counterfeit Authority - Kenya y (ACA) headquarters

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_a-delegation-from-the-department-of-homeland-activity-7256629771843895296-X9fV/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_a-delegation-from-the-department-of-homeland-activity-7256629771843895296-X9fV/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (28.10.2024)

Kenya Copyrights Board Nab Kenyan Behind Illegal Websites Streaming Football Matches



<https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/105887-kenya-copyrights-board-cracks-whip-websites-showing-copyrighted-content-nairobi> (31.10.2024)

**Liberia:**

LIPO Conducts IP Awareness in Nimba County

[https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/lipo-conducts-ip-awareness-in-nimba-county/article\\_a5d86dc8-8142-11ef-940e-afd8084550fb.html](https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/lipo-conducts-ip-awareness-in-nimba-county/article_a5d86dc8-8142-11ef-940e-afd8084550fb.html) (03.10.2024)

LIPO & Liberia National Police Office Explore Partnership to Combat Intellectual Property Crimes

[https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/security/lipo-lipo-explore-partnership-to-combat-intellectual-property-crimes/article\\_379954e6-8c3f-11ef-a839-aba93cd033bb.html](https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/security/lipo-lipo-explore-partnership-to-combat-intellectual-property-crimes/article_379954e6-8c3f-11ef-a839-aba93cd033bb.html) (17.10.2024)

Liberia Intellectual Property Office Forms Groundbreaking Partnership with National Police to Combat Intellectual Property Crimes

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-intellectual-property-office-forms-groundbreaking-partnership-with-national-police-to-combat-intellectual-property-crimes/> (17.10.2024)

Liberia: LIPO and ARIPO Host E-Service Sensitization Workshop for IP Attorneys in Liberia

[https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lipo-and-aripo-host-e-service-sensitization-workshop-for-ip-attorneys-in-liberia/#google\\_vignette](https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-lipo-and-aripo-host-e-service-sensitization-workshop-for-ip-attorneys-in-liberia/#google_vignette) (28.10.2024)

**Nigeria:**

Federal Government reviewing intellectual property to boost innovation – Minister

[https://punchng.com/fg-reviewing-intellectual-property-to-boost-innovation-minister/#google\\_vignette](https://punchng.com/fg-reviewing-intellectual-property-to-boost-innovation-minister/#google_vignette) (14.10.2024)

Nigerian Copyright Commission Engages e-Vendors to Combat Piracy on the Online Space

<https://www.facebook.com/100069118423774/posts/860208812959725/?rdid=M3anAqCMC3oe1Zv2> (30.10.2024)

Formal presentation of the Model Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for Nigerian Universities

<https://www.facebook.com/100069118423774/posts/860772156236724/?rdid=SOnglwTBiOR7nCA1#> (31.10.2024)

**North Africa:**

Enhancing IPR Enforcement and Anti-Counterfeiting for North African Countries

<https://afripi.org/en/news/enhancing-ipr-enforcement-and-anti-counterfeiting-north-african-countries> (02.10.2024)

**OAPI:**

OAPI, a key player in the Francophone Intellectual Property Alliance

<http://oapi.int/index.php/en/component/k2/item/903-l-oapi,-acteur-cl%C3%A9-de-l-alliance-francophone-de-la-propri%C3%A9t%C3%A9-intellectuelle> (02.10.2024)

Final Evaluation of PAMPIG II - Geographical Indications Support Project

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_oapi-pampig-indicationsgeographiques-activity-7247499139368849408--566?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_oapi-pampig-indicationsgeographiques-activity-7247499139368849408--566?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (03.10.2024)

OAPI marks its presence at the Franco Tech exhibition

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/904-l%E2%80%99oapi-marque-sa-pr%C3%A9sence-au-salon-franco-tech> (03.10.2024)

IFRRO World Congress and General Assembly 2024: OAPI positions itself to support the 4th revolution in Africa

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/905-congr%C3%A8s-mondial-et-assembl%C3%A9e-g%C3%A9n%C3%A9rale-de-l-ifrro-2024-l-oapi-se-positionne-pour-accompagner-la-4%C3%A8me-r%C3%A9volution-en-afrique> (04.10.2024);

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_ogc-ifrroworldcongress-canada-activity-7248012054177935360-lhgy/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_ogc-ifrroworldcongress-canada-activity-7248012054177935360-lhgy/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (4.10.2024)

INTA and OAPI contribute to strengthening trademark protection in Africa

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/906-l%E2%80%99inta-et-l%E2%80%99oapi-contribuent-%C3%A0-renforcer-la-protection-des-marques-en-afrique> (05.10.2024)

Webinars on the application of trademark law in the OAPI area on September 26

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_contrefaaexon-oapi-marque-activity-7248626968546406400-OkDp/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_contrefaaexon-oapi-marque-activity-7248626968546406400-OkDp/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (06.10.2024)

Launch of the 6th edition of the intermediate training

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin\\_apide-propriaetztaezintellectuelle-formation-activity-7249374455502618624-UhLN/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linkedin_apide-propriaetztaezintellectuelle-formation-activity-7249374455502618624-UhLN/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (08.10.2024)

African Regional Youth Conference on Intellectual Property

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Upcoming activities: Capacity-building for OAPI trademarks and industrial design examiners on substantive examination

<https://afripi.org/en/activities/capacity-building-oapi-trade-marks-and-industrial-design-examiners-substantive>

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OAPI at the @creativeafricanexus Weekend 2024 edition in Algiers, Algeria

<http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/910-soutenir-le-commerce-et-l%E2%80%99investissement-des-cr%C3%A9ateurs-africains> (23.10.2024)

OAPI and Government of Burkina Faso, is organizing an International Conference on the promotion of Industrial Designs and Models in its member states

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