

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 100

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- 2 days training in intellectual property training for regional science and technology offices and agencies
- Discussion forum on Trademark registration and protection system and challenges of the official
- Draft GIs Proclamation Workshop
- Second round of Intellectual Property Academy training titled "IP management and technology transfer in Universities and Research Institutions in Ethiopia
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## **News**

### **1. Important topics**

#### **Africa: Adoption of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty on industrial design law<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**

On November 22, 2024, member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) adopted the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, marking a significant advancement in global design protection. This treaty aims to harmonize and streamline design registration processes, making it more accessible and cost-effective for designers worldwide to secure protection for their creations. The adoption of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty is expected to boost the registration of industrial designs, stimulate business creation, and accelerate economic development by providing designers with a more efficient pathway to protect their intellectual property on a global scale. This development represents a pivotal step toward a more inclusive and streamlined international design protection framework, benefiting designers and innovators worldwide. The Treaty requires 15 contracting parties to enter into force.

#### **ARIPO: The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants goes into effect on 24 November 2024<sup>5</sup>**

The Arusha Protocol, under ARIPO, came into force on November 24, 2024, following its adoption in 2015. Ratified by Cape Verde, Ghana, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe, the Protocol establishes a centralized system for registering Plant Variety Rights (PVRs) through ARIPO, simplifying processes for plant breeders and ensuring their exclusive rights over new plant varieties. Aligned with the UPOV 1991 Convention, the Arusha Protocol grants breeders exclusive rights while allowing limited farmer seed-saving exceptions. PVRs are valid for 20 years (25 for trees/vines), fostering agricultural innovation, food security, and economic growth. This milestone positions Africa for enhanced agricultural potential and sustainable development.

#### **Ethiopia: Draft proclamation to approve the Paris Industrial Property Protection Convention and International Trademarks Registration Protocol<sup>6</sup>**

On October 26, 2017 (in Ethiopian calendar), the House of People's Representatives approved the draft proclamation to ratify the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property under Proclamation No. 1351/2017, as well as the draft proclamation for the ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement on the International Registration of Marks under Proclamation No. 1352/2017.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2024/article\\_0017.html](https://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2024/article_0017.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://oapi.int/index.php/fr/component/k2/item/917-un-pas-d%C3%A9cisif-vers-la-protection-mondiale-du-design>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/100064216956705/posts/956613506489206/?rdid=iTEWXgCREAp5WTi2>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ompic.ma/fr/actualites/adoption-dun-nouveau-traite-sur-le-droit-des-dessins-et-modeles-industriels>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_pvp-arushaprotocol-aripomemberstates-activity-7264155423870529537-lpxY?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_pvp-arushaprotocol-aripomemberstates-activity-7264155423870529537-lpxY?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=942914877859069&id=100064216956705&rdid=D3SQ07dKtOnY3Skh](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=942914877859069&id=100064216956705&rdid=D3SQ07dKtOnY3Skh)

**Kenya: Public Notice: eCitizen Payment Gateway Integration with eCitizen payment gateway is complete<sup>7</sup>**

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) has completed integration with the eCitizen payment gateway, complying with a presidential directive for government service payments. All ACA import permit applications must now be submitted via the Trade Facilitation Platform (TFP)<sup>8</sup>, with payments processed through eCitizen. Additionally, the IPR recordation program, covering services like IP rights applications, renewals, ownership changes, and agent registrations, is now fully integrated with eCitizen. ACA enforcement services, including fines, inspections, and complaints, are payable via M-pesa paybill 222 222 using specific payment codes for each service. Direct payments to ACA bank accounts are no longer accepted.

**Kenya: Landmark Report on International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement ISIPPE-2 on combating counterfeit trade<sup>9, 10</sup>**

Kenya has released the ISIPPE-2 Report<sup>11,12</sup>, highlighting efforts to combat counterfeiting and strengthen intellectual property (IP) protection. The report, unveiled during the Second International Symposium on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement, emphasizes the economic and social costs of counterfeiting, estimated at \$2.2 trillion globally and KES 100 billion annually for Kenya. The report calls for collaboration, technology-driven solutions like ACA's Integrated Management System, and multi-agency efforts to tackle counterfeiting, ensuring a safer and more innovative future. The next ISIPPE symposium is set for June 2025.

**Namibia: Namibia Introduces Automated Statements of Grant for Madrid Applications<sup>13</sup>**

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) of Namibia has announced an automation initiative for Madrid Protocol applications designating Namibia. Newly filed applications will automatically receive Statements of Grant under Section 200(11) of the Industrial Property Act 1 of 2012 after the opposition period ends, provided no objections arise. For pre-automation applications, stakeholders must submit additional documentation to enable the issuance of Statements of Grant. This initiative reflects BIPA's commitment to enhancing efficiency and fostering a reliable environment for intellectual property protection.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/531-public-notice-ecitizen-payment-gateway>

<sup>8</sup> <https://tfp.kenyatradenet.go.ke>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/533-kenya-releases-landmark-report-on-intellectual-property-protection-and-enforcement>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BRmADTUsB/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/images/downloads/publications/ISIPPE-2-2024-REPORT-LAYOUT.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.aca.go.ke/images/downloads/publications/isippe-2-report-summary-2024.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=ab05fc55-c394-4699-8b38-49e3514afb56&utm\\_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm\\_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm\\_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm\\_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2024-11-05&utm\\_term=](https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=ab05fc55-c394-4699-8b38-49e3514afb56&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2024-11-05&utm_term=)

**Namibia: The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) opens new office in Ongwediva<sup>14</sup>**

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) has opened a new office in Ongwediva as part of its decentralization strategy to improve access to business and intellectual property services in Namibia's northern regions. The office will provide services such as business and trademark registrations, intellectual property protection, and name reservations. This expansion aims to streamline processes, reduce barriers, and foster a supportive business environment in Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, and parts of the Kavango regions.

**Nigeria: Nigerian Copyright Commission proposes IP policy for Nigerian universities<sup>15</sup>**

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has proposed that all universities in Nigeria adopt comprehensive Intellectual Property (IP) policies to harness their innovative and creative capacities. This recommendation was made by NCC Director-General Dr. John Asein during the presentation of the revised Model Intellectual Property Policy to the General Assembly of the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities. The initiative aims to provide a structured framework for managing IP rights within academic institutions, thereby fostering innovation and contributing to national development.

**South Africa: Copyright Amendment Bill and Performers' Protection Amendment Bill sent to Constitutional Court<sup>16</sup>**

President Cyril Ramaphosa has referred the Copyright Amendment Bill and Performers' Protection Amendment Bill to the Constitutional Court to rule on their constitutionality. Both bills aim to modernize intellectual property and performers' rights laws, addressing issues like equitable remuneration, digital rights, and protections for performers and copyright holders. Initially tabled in 2017 and 2016 respectively, the bills have undergone multiple revisions and public consultations following the president's 2020 reservations. Parliament approved the final versions in February 2024, but unresolved concerns prompted the referral to the Constitutional Court for a definitive decision.

**2. Additional topics**

**Africa:**

EUIPO through the #AfrIPI project, urges African SMEs to develop an IP strategy to secure their future  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1416863809279839&rdid=CMbUgXquYUFovpqU> (01.11.2024)

New Edition of the Manual for Geographical Indications in Africa

<https://afripi.org/en/news/new-edition-manual-geographical-indications-africa>;

<sup>14</sup> <https://economist.com/na/93389/retail/bipa-expands-to-ongwediva-enhancing-business-services-in-north/>

<sup>15</sup> [https://guardian.ng/news/ncc-proposes-ip-policy-for-nigerian-universities/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGjJNVleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHfz9pPNf9PRv1V6AqGpbaPQyq0o641zup\\_NIS5CZjwuXSyyRhRrrKdpm2A\\_aem\\_nYwLrCm91gj91mfWxZNaWA](https://guardian.ng/news/ncc-proposes-ip-policy-for-nigerian-universities/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGjJNVleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHfz9pPNf9PRv1V6AqGpbaPQyq0o641zup_NIS5CZjwuXSyyRhRrrKdpm2A_aem_nYwLrCm91gj91mfWxZNaWA)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.golegal.co.za/copyright-legislation-parliament/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HHDdEfR1u/> (06.11.2024)

Support for the regional registration of Ylan-Ylang from Comoros

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_afrique-indicationsgazeographiques-afripi-activity-7260577063441469441-O2hr/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_afrique-indicationsgazeographiques-afripi-activity-7260577063441469441-O2hr/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (08.11.2024)

The JPO held bilateral meetings with several African IP offices

<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/ugoki/202411/2024111302.html> (13.11.2024)

Active cooperation with Africa reaffirmed by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) during the Administrative Council of ARIPO

<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/ugoki/202411/2024111301.html> (13.11.2024)

**Algeria:**

National Council for Copyright and Neighboring Rights participated in the "Acces Music" conference

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15cUCvrgSm/> (15.11.2024)

WIPO training course for the benefit of the framework of the Directorate of Traditional Crafts

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AZaZiCQed/> (20.11.2024)

The General Directorate of National Security day of study on intellectual property protection and combating imitation

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14XbZVjLdT/> (21.11.2024)

African Commission of the International Federation of Cloning Rights Organizations (IFRRO) and a joint program between the International Federation of Copy Rights Organizations and the World Intellectual Property Organization (OMPI)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FJbsVojco/> (30.11.2024)

**ARIPO:**

48th Session of the ARIPO Administrative Council

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bemanya-twebaze-922255192\\_the-48th-session-of-the-aripo-administrative-activity-7260164983093657600-mc8x/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bemanya-twebaze-922255192_the-48th-session-of-the-aripo-administrative-activity-7260164983093657600-mc8x/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (07.11.2024)

WIPO-ARIPO seminar calls for strengthening of IP management in Africa

[https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/wipo-aripo-seminar-calls-strengthening-ip-management-africa?fbclid=IwY2xjawG1OzJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHcfQoFISRO86v9Iar8vzlegOCldhzRqEJgLuHtrYodJL4JafiuE\\_qbat3w\\_aem\\_S1O450kgHv-8V\\_Ec\\_447Qw](https://www.musicinafrica.net/magazine/wipo-aripo-seminar-calls-strengthening-ip-management-africa?fbclid=IwY2xjawG1OzJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHcfQoFISRO86v9Iar8vzlegOCldhzRqEJgLuHtrYodJL4JafiuE_qbat3w_aem_S1O450kgHv-8V_Ec_447Qw) (27.11.2024)

WIPO and ARIPO Regional Seminar on Copyright

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_copyright-copyright-creativeeconomy-activity-7267192583909490690-Xvz/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_copyright-copyright-creativeeconomy-activity-7267192583909490690-Xvz/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (27.11.2024)

ARIPO at Seed Systems Conference in Kampala, Uganda

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization\\_seedsector-seedsystems-seedsat-activity-7267805545208696832-rLAH/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_seedsector-seedsystems-seedsat-activity-7267805545208696832-rLAH/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (28.11.2024)

**Cameroon:**

Visit by EUIPO to Centre of Excellence of the Interprofessional Council of Cocoa and Coffee

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr\\_mbalmayo-cameroun-africa-activity-7266843803695652865-TREq/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/africaipr_mbalmayo-cameroun-africa-activity-7266843803695652865-TREq/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (26.11.2024)

**Ethiopia:**

EIPA, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), held a national intellectual property workshop

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202411050126.html> ;  
<https://eipa.gov.et/national-ip-week-ethiopia/> (05.11.2024)

Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority announces approval for more than 1,300 applications that meet the intellectual property requirements this year

<https://www.facebook.com/100064848694581/posts/987865646718383/?rdid=rSdFWOmVi9Jke5g6#>  
(11.11.2024)

2 days training in intellectual property training for regional science and technology offices and agencies

<https://www.facebook.com/100064216956705/posts/947983840685506/?rdid=3jhcG4AcrHwlvgae>  
(12.11.2024)

Discussion forum on Trademark registration and protection system and challenges of the official

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15Pf8gTQQL/> (14.11.2024)

Draft GIs Proclamation workshop

<https://www.facebook.com/100064216956705/posts/957973519686538/?rdid=i4ilbBojGCUkDcmS>  
(27.11.2024)



Second round of Intellectual Property Academy training titled "IP management and technology transfer in Universities and Research Institutions in Ethiopia

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1B9oCAnQdr/> (29.11.2024)

**Kenya:**

Anti-Counterfeit Authority participates in the National Intellectual Property (IP) Policy & Strategy Validation Workshop

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ndy4vi4gc/> (04.11.2024)

14th Anti-Counterfeit Authority Newsletter

<https://www.aca.go.ke/images/downloads/newsletters/aca-newsletter-14th-edition.pdf> (05.11.2024)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority and Kenya Association of Manufacturers partner to Tackle Counterfeiting and Boost SME Gains in African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_upholdingauthenticity-activity-7267536011075764224-8Oxj/?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_upholdingauthenticity-activity-7267536011075764224-8Oxj/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (27.11.2024)

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/537-aca-and-kam-partner-to-tackle-counterfeiting-and-boost-sme-gains-in-afcfta> (28.11.2024)

Kenya Innovation Week (25-28 November 2024)

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/kenya-innovation-week-kiw/posts/> ;

<https://kenyainnovationweek.com/> (28.11.2024)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority Partners with Murang'a University for Innovation Week

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_upholdingauthenticity-innovationweek-intellectualproperty-activity-7265727860357689344-doem?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_upholdingauthenticity-innovationweek-intellectualproperty-activity-7265727860357689344-doem?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (28.11.2024)

KIPI hosts National Defense College Faculty and Students

<https://www.kipi.go.ke/kipi-hosts-national-defence-college-faculty-and-students> (29.11.2024)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority at the 3rd edition of the Supply Chain National Dialogue 2024

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority\\_the-executive-director-of-the-anti-counterfeit-activity-7268212978213158913-eKSZ?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitauthority_the-executive-director-of-the-anti-counterfeit-activity-7268212978213158913-eKSZ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop) (29.11.2024)

**Morocco:**

Launch of the 8th edition of the Industrial Property Animator Certificate 2024/2025

<http://www.ompic.ma/fr/actualites/lancement-de-la-8eme-edition-du-certificat-danimateur-en-propriete-industrielle-capi> (11.11.2024)

**Nigeria:**

NCC Confiscates Pirated Books Worth N20 Million in Lagos Bookshops

[https://newsdigest.ng/ncc-confiscates-pirated-books-worth-n20-million-in-lagos-bookshops/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGZdbBleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHcJwJg3aO7F4CHqBLMGZo609c-neMQhKfH5tyEZngQwn202nHqKIKHfyGw\\_aem\\_DSBUvj2QUSSQv7yRb1k6DQ](https://newsdigest.ng/ncc-confiscates-pirated-books-worth-n20-million-in-lagos-bookshops/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGZdbBleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHcJwJg3aO7F4CHqBLMGZo609c-neMQhKfH5tyEZngQwn202nHqKIKHfyGw_aem_DSBUvj2QUSSQv7yRb1k6DQ) (01.11.2024)

EUIPO and OAPI promoting IP awareness and its use among African enterprises

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AzbCygNbp/> (14.11.2024)

NCC, institutions' synergy will promote better understanding of IP – Asein

[https://starnews24.com.ng/2024/11/15/ncc-institutions-synergy-will-promote-better-understanding-of-ip-asein/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGsDHhleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHXnN3BTqvhKch9-ECSyMNliOyXdC7rcqFBgpMRr1qY00j5At3D600wmEyg\\_aem - JdK1drvSnt2zAGon6RI8Q&sfnsn=scwspmo](https://starnews24.com.ng/2024/11/15/ncc-institutions-synergy-will-promote-better-understanding-of-ip-asein/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGsDHhleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHXnN3BTqvhKch9-ECSyMNliOyXdC7rcqFBgpMRr1qY00j5At3D600wmEyg_aem - JdK1drvSnt2zAGon6RI8Q&sfnsn=scwspmo) (15.11.2024)

NCC sensitizes artisans on copyright at the Arts and Craft Village, Abuja

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14MaEzLc9m/> (17.11.2024)

Brief and Pictorials at the Intellectual Property for Small Medium Scale Enterprises in Indigenous Fashion and Craft Industries Official Closing Showcase, Abuja

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02RHqVGGHZQdeLKCPxZh2pite9ZaLXnUcr1Na5y3TZ2Xg1thGFfPkuXTmHsnxhc1Lul&id=100069118423774&sfnsn=scwspmo&mibextid=RUBZ1f](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02RHqVGGHZQdeLKCPxZh2pite9ZaLXnUcr1Na5y3TZ2Xg1thGFfPkuXTmHsnxhc1Lul&id=100069118423774&sfnsn=scwspmo&mibextid=RUBZ1f)  
(17.11.2024)

NCC holds IP Master-Class for creatives at Abuja International Poetry Festival 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14YwzXmkrA/> (19.11.2024)

Upcoming activities: Support for the digitalization of the Nigerian IP office

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#### **South Africa:**

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