

Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 123

Index

1. Important topics

Kenya:	Kenya Moves to Consolidate Intellectual Property Regulation Under New Authority
Mauritius:	Mauritius Amends the Industrial Property Act 2019 to Give Domestic Effect to the Harare Protocol
Namibia:	Namibia Cuts Patent Fees
Uganda:	New Copyright System Set for September Rollout
Zambia:	Pacra Moves to Digital Issuance of IP Registration Certificates
Zimbabwe:	Zimbabwe Launches Inter-Ministerial Committee on Intellectual Property

2. Additional topics:

See end of text

News

1. Important topics

Kenya: Kenya Moves to Consolidate Intellectual Property Regulation Under New Authority^{1,2,3,4}

Kenya is considering significant reforms to its intellectual property framework through the Kenya Intellectual Property Bill, 2026, which is currently before the National Assembly and undergoing public and stakeholder consultation. The Bill proposes the establishment of a single Kenya Intellectual Property Authority (KIPA), which would consolidate the functions currently performed by the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO) and Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA). The proposed restructuring is intended to address fragmented administration, duplication of functions and enforcement challenges across Kenya's IP system.

¹ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/this-morning-principal-secretary-for-industry-ugcPost-7495411518130462720-z5JZ/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABBHjSUBNe6s9vY5YuQifDO8l9hJ34ephvQ

² <https://peopledaily.digital/news/parliament-seeks-kenyans-views-on-new-intellectual-property-law>

³ <https://kenyanwallstreet.com/kenya-intellectual-property-bill>

⁴ <https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/news/391493/kenya-moves-to-merge-intellectual-property-agencies-under-one-authority>

As part of the parliamentary process, the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Trade, Industry and Cooperatives invited members of the public, innovators, creators and other stakeholders to submit comments on the Bill. Government and IP agency representatives have also appeared before the Committee to make submissions on the proposed reforms. If enacted, the legislation would represent a substantial restructuring of Kenya's institutional framework for the administration and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Mauritius: Mauritius Amends the Industrial Property Act 2019 to Give Domestic Effect to the Harare Protocol⁵

Mauritius has amended its Industrial Property Act 2019⁶ to incorporate the ARIPO Harare Protocol on Patents, Utility Models and Industrial Designs into domestic law, following the country's accession to the Protocol with effect from 27 August 2025. The amendments establish the legal framework for ARIPO-granted patents, utility models and industrial designs designating Mauritius to operate within the country.

In particular, such ARIPO rights will have the same effect and protection as corresponding rights granted nationally in Mauritius, unless the Mauritian Intellectual Property Office determines, in accordance with the Protocol, that a particular right should have no effect in Mauritius. The amendments also provide that the Harare Protocol will prevail in the event of a conflict with the Industrial Property Act. The development therefore confirms the effective integration of Mauritius into ARIPO's regional system for patents, utility models and industrial designs.

Namibia: Namibia Cuts Patent Fees^{7,8}

Namibia has amended its Industrial Property Regulations, with effect from 1 July 2026, to simplify the official fee structure for intellectual property applications. For patents, trademarks and industrial designs, previously separate application, publication, registration, and certificate fees have been consolidated into a single upfront fee payable on filing. Although this increases the amount payable at the filing stage, the overall official fees generally remain unchanged. Under the revised structure, the consolidated fee for a patent application is N\$1,500 (~USD 94; JPY 14,500), while a utility model application attracts a fee of N\$1,200 (~USD 75; JPY 11,650). The changes are intended to streamline the administration and payment of official fees for IP applications in Namibia.

⁵ https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=ec11369c-7302-42ff-b9d6-6408dc450197&utm_source=lexology+daily+newsfeed&utm_medium=html+email+-+body+-+general+section&utm_campaign=lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=lexology+daily+newsfeed+2026-08-05&utm_term=

⁶ The Economic and Financial Measures (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026 (Act No. 13 of 2026), amendment to the Industrial Property Act 2019, pp. 65–66, available at: <https://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/mauritiusassembly/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Act1326.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.marketwatch.com/na/market-watch/patent-trade-mark-fees-cut-nmh015067-3015-18722>

⁸ Government Notice No. 222 of 2026, Amendment of Industrial Property Regulations: Industrial Property Act, 2012, Government Gazette No. 8965, 1 July 2026, pp. 3-5 available at: <https://namiblii.org/akn/na/act/gn/2026/222/eng%402026-07-01>

Uganda: New Copyright System Set for September Rollout⁹

Uganda is preparing to roll out a new copyright management system by the end of September 2026, aimed at strengthening copyright protection and improving transparency and remuneration for creators. The system, which is undergoing testing, is intended to support copyright administration, dispute resolution and enforcement and to address concerns regarding exploitation within Uganda's creative industries.

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has clarified that the system will belong to and be operated by Collective Management Organizations (CMOs), rather than the government, with URSB providing regulatory oversight through front-end services and back-end auditing of revenue collection. URSB is also modernising its copyright services to make registration more accessible and efficient. The initiative follows consultations between the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, URSB and representatives of Uganda's creative sector.

Zambia: Pacra Moves to Digital Issuance of IP registration Certificates^{10,11}

With effect from 19 August 2026, Zambia's Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) has moved to the electronic issuance of intellectual property registration certificates. PACRA will no longer issue physical certificates for patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright registrations. Instead, registration certificates will be issued electronically and sent to the email address provided by the applicant during the application process. Applicants and their representatives should therefore ensure that their email details recorded with PACRA are accurate and regularly monitored.

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Launches Inter-Ministerial Committee on Intellectual Property¹²

Zimbabwe has formally launched an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Intellectual Property (IMC-IP) to strengthen coordination of intellectual property policy, administration, and enforcement across government. The Committee, whose establishment was approved by Cabinet in October 2025, held its inaugural meeting in Harare on 14 August 2026, bringing together government ministries, the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office, ARIPO, legal and IP practitioners, creative-sector organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Committee will advise government on IP policy, research emerging issues, coordinate implementation across departments and promote compliance with regional and international obligations. Its work is expected to cover areas including legislative and regulatory reform, innovation and technology, creative industries, enforcement, public awareness and institutional capacity building. Particular emphasis has been placed on improving the commercialization and economic value of Zimbabwean intellectual property, alongside addressing counterfeiting, piracy, traditional knowledge and emerging issues arising from artificial

⁹ <https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/26/new-copyright-system-set-for-september-rollout/>

¹⁰ <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=59c348c8-ab0d-4923-a493-7146d691b8b1&>

¹¹ <https://www.kisch-ip.com/Articles/Read/517/NEWSFLASH-PACRA-Moves-to-Digital-Issuance-of-IP-Registration-Certificates--Zambia>

¹² <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/zimbabwe-launches-inter-ministerial-ditxf/>

intelligence and digital technologies. The initiative is intended to build on Zimbabwe's National Intellectual Property Policy and move towards a more coordinated national IP framework.

2. Additional topics

Africa:

Africa Is Creating. Is Africa Owning the Value? Inside the 7th AAIPS Pre-Summit

<https://africaipsummit.com/2026/08/05/africa-is-creating-is-africa-owning-the-value-inside-the-7th-aaips-pre-summit/> (05.08.2026)

Intellectual property (IP) protection and its role in growing Africa's creative economy will come under the spotlight on August 18, when the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) hosts a virtual Digital Press Briefing on IP for Growth

<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/digital-press-briefing-to-explore-intellectual-property-s-role-in-africa-s-creative-economy/> (18.08.2026)

Africa: U.S. Launches 'IP for Growth' Programme to Boost Africa's Creative Economy

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202608210372.html> (21.08.2026)

Algeria:

The National Office for Copyright and Related Rights reviews its experience in collecting royalties for Egyptian collective ownership institutions

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EsCtdCqYA/> (03.08.2026)

International webinar: How to protect and enhance your business through collective management?

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19Zu4mLZ6b/> (22.08.2026)

Angola:

The Angolan Institute of Industrial Property (IAPI) participated in the 41st edition of the Luanda International Fair (FILDA)

<https://www.portal-lusofonia.org/noticias/iapi-reforca-promocao-da-propriedade-industrial-na-41a-edicao-da-filda> (14.08.2026)

ARIPO:

WIPO-ARIPO Regional Meeting Strengthens TISC Networks in Africa

<https://www.wipo.int/en/web/fit-japan/w/news/2026/wipo-aripo-regional-meeting-strengthens-technology-and-innovation-support-center-tisc-networks-in-africa> (26.08.2026)

Save the date for the Symposium on Copyright & Related Rights Management, taking place from 19–21 October 2026

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/african-regional-intellectual-property-organization_aripo-copyright-aripoat50-activity-7499036596210479105-ljrW?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAVxn4UBmx6eu6dZ8acBthTL72F5G8jB4Aw&lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Acompanies_company_posts_index%3B8adcc4f2-f2f2-4f18-993e-113c3f4e4e89 (28.08.2026)

Director General Bemanya Twebaze welcomed Her Excellency CP Suzan S. Kaganda, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the ARIPO Secretariat

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19Sb6by6i1/> (28.08.2026)

Cape Verde:

IGQPI working visit with a delegation from the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl), as part of their visit to Cabo Verde, in coordination with the Sotavento Chamber of Commerce (CCS)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DKr4YESRt/> (24.08.2026)

Egypt:

Statistics: 81% of trademarks granted to Egyptians in 2025

<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=13082026&id=4eb6ad1c-32e3-4f51-baae-0cc5f428fe88>

<https://www.youlyou.com/35635> (13.08.2026)

Number of patents in Egypt has declined to 102 due to the financial challenges facing scientific research

<https://www.safha1.com/15245>

<https://www.facebook.com/CAPMASEG/posts/%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%BA-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%AF-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%AD%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%85%D9%83%D8%AA%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A-102-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-202/1498347535661030/> (13.08.2026)

Ethiopia:

Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority has announced that Ethiopia being a member of the Paris Industrial Property Protection Convention and the Madrid Trademarks Agreement Protocol will contribute to the idea of international investment

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DQsqrAPZS/> (04.08.2026)

Members of the Reform Technical Committee have presented a briefing to the reviewing team including prepared intellectual property policies and laws

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1C5Q15EtMX/> (14.08.2026)

Kenya:

Anti-Counterfeit Authority – Kenya held meeting with key U.S. partners to strengthen cooperation in the protection and enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/anticounterfeitaauthority_anticounterfeitaauthority-intellectualproperty-activity-7491443715744653313-zuBQ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABBHjSUBNe6s9vY5YuQjfDO8l9hJ34epvQ (07.08.2026)

Anti-Counterfeit Authority Reinforces Commitment to Protect Farmers at the 2026 Kaimosi Agricultural Expo

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/636-anti-counterfeit-authority-reinforces-commitment-to-protect-farmers-at-the-2026-kaimosi-agricultural-expo> (11.08.2026)

Institute champions innovation and intellectual property protection at the Kaimosi Agricultural Expo 2026

<https://www.kipi.go.ke/institute-champions-innovation-and-intellectual-property-protection-kaimosi-agricultural-expo-2026> (13.08.2026)

ACA and U.S. Partners Reaffirm Commitment to IP Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting Cooperation

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/637-aca-and-u-s-partners-reaffirm-commitment-to-ip-protection-and-anti-counterfeiting-cooperation> (18.08.2026)

Suspected Counterfeit Personal Care Products Worth KSH 1.1 Million Seized in Eastleigh

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/638-suspected-counterfeit-personal-care-products-worth-ksh-1-1-million-seized-in-eastleigh> (18.08.2026)

Cabinet Secretary meets Institute Board and Management

<https://www.kipi.go.ke/cabinet-secretary-meets-institute-board-and-management> (26.08.2026)

Counterfeit Gypsum Seized in Kakamega as ACA Warns of Collapse and Fire Risks

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/641-counterfeit-gypsum-seized-in-kakamega-as-aca-warns-of-collapse-and-fire-risks> (27.08.2026)

Counterfeit Sugar Syndicate Busted in Bungoma, Western Kenya

<https://www.aca.go.ke/media-center/news-and-events/640-counterfeit-sugar-syndicate-busted-in-bungoma-western-kenya> (27.08.2026)

Liberia:

The Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) and the Liberia National Tourism Authority (LNTA) have agreed to strengthen cooperation aimed at protecting and promoting Liberia's intellectual property

<https://lnta.gov.lr/lnta-lipo-strengthen-partnership-to-advance-liberias-creative-economy-culture-and-tourism/> (07.08.2026)

Thirty-nine Liberian micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have received trademark and certification mark certificates following a Business and Intellectual Property Management Clinic implemented by the Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) and UNIDO's GROW-2 Project

<https://www.facebook.com/STLLIB/posts/39-liberian-msmes-secure-trademark-protection-through-lipo-unido-business-clinic/1457157306525947/> (19.08.2026)

LIPO, UNIDO Close Business Clinic as 39 Businesses, Cooperatives Receive IP Certificates

<https://lipo.gov.lr/2026/08/19/lipo-unido-close-business-clinic-as-39-businesses-cooperatives-receive-ip-certificates/> (19.08.2026)

Mozambique:

Mozambique to examine AI patentability under new National Intellectual Property Strategy

<https://patentlawyermagazine.com/mozambique-to-examine-ai-patentability-under-new-national-intellectual-property-strategy/> (04.08.2026)

Nigeria:

FG Unveils Framework to Turn Creative Intellectual Property into Bankable Assets

<https://www.tvcnews.tv/fg-unveils-framework-to-turn-creative-intellectual-property-into-bankable-assets/> (05.08.2026)

The Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) have reassured the National Executive of the DeeJays Association of Nigeria (DJAN) of its commitment to ensuring a seamless relationship with the Musical Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/199yJKYGS2/> (07.08.2026)

The Court of Appeal has dismissed an interlocutory appeal filed by the Copyright Society of Nigeria Ltd/Gte (COSON) against the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), affirming a Federal High Court ruling that refused to grant COSON an injunction against the Commission

<https://thesun.ng/court-of-appeal-dismisses-cosons-bid-to-halt-ncc-action-awards-n200000-costs/?amp&fbclid=IwY2xjawTq0ehwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNyGMGYXBwX2IkEDlyMjAzOTE>

[3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR73pdpyUmWJHNDAXMTTrZISxZNjflwxjNDri7ysvjaVdCCDCInd2pDbVg-3bKQ_aem_dfhFgR4qBOll_ZPBmKsYBw](https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DF6vNgd7x/) (12.08.2026)

Court of Appeal dismisses COSON's bid to halt NCC action
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DF6vNgd7x/> (12.08.2026)

Nigeria: U.S., Nigeria Deepen Music Industry Ties with Intellectual Property Workshop
<https://allafrica.com/stories/202608210160.html> (21.08.2026)

Minister assures Copyright Commission of support in enforcing copyright laws
https://thenationonlineng.net/minister-assures-copyright-commission-of-support-in-enforcing-copyright-laws/amp/?fbclid=IwY2xjawT9fJVwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNyGGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4JMwctv7MSNTNBPWiWQaOLHRk_IZBTzhnWnTW9IMZVUxTsM31fpcuyyF21fg_aem_E1pWy1hK4zmC5Dy6Y7GKhA (23.08.2026)

Brief and Pictorials as NCC Honours its Past Leaders, Reaffirms Commitment to Stronger Copyright Administration
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EK2iWog8X/> (24.08.2026)

OAPI:

20 new OAPI Space Indications Géographiques Ambassadors
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linked_in_indicationsgeographiques-daezveloppementlocal-activity-7491081540341329921-FCLC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABBHjSUBNe6s9vY5YuQjfDO8l9hJ34epvQ
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14qZPw7VjAq/> (06.08.2026)

Madd de Casamance and Poivre de Penja have entered the world history of geographical indications
<https://oapi.int/2026/08/21/le-madd-de-casamance-et-le-poivre-de-penja-entrent-dans-lhistoire-mondiale-des-indications-geographiques/>;
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oapi-linked_in_genaeyve-madddecasamance-saeznaezgal-activity-7496476504911130624-ZGAQ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAVxn4UBmx6eu6dZ8acBthTL72F5G8jB4Aw (21.08.2026)

South Africa:

The Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Directorate at Durban University of Technology is hosting a two-day Intellectual Property (IP) Governance and Engagement Workshop

<https://www.facebook.com/DurbanUniversityofTechnology/posts/the-technology-transfer-and-innovation-tti-directorate-at-durban-university-of-t/1525113962994006/> (12.08.2026)

Counterfeit goods cost SA R200 billion in uncollected taxes

<https://www.news24.com/brandstory/partner-content/counterfeit-goods-cost-sa-r200-billion-in-uncollected-taxes-20260817-0632> (18.08.2026)

Tanzania:

Brela and Costech Launch INNOIP Program to Foster Innovation Patriotism in the Tanzanian Business Scene

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BhqZDP8QJ/> (23.08.2026)

Uganda:

New Music Platform Opens More Earning Opportunities for Ugandan Creators

<https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/05/new-music-platform-opens-more-earning-opportunities-for-ugandan-creators/> (05.08.2026)

URSB Engages Film Producers on Copyright at Producers Guild Annual Meeting

<https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/05/ursb-engages-film-producers-on-copyright-at-producers-guild-annual-meeting/> (05.08.2026)

Inspector General of Government (IGG) has ordered the immediate interdiction of Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) Registrar General, Mercy Kainobwiso, and three others as the inspectorate launches investigations into allegations of corruption, abuse of office and financial impropriety at the agency

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/igg-orders-interdiction-of-ursb-registrar-gen-NV_239054_082026

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/new-details-emerge-on-four-ursb-staff-under-probe-5563082#story>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1035893672670355>

<https://www.facebook.com/SoftPowerNews/posts/the-uganda-registration-services-bureau-ursb-board-and-top-management-have-agree/1451441663698114/> (18.08.2026)

Acting Registrar General Mustapher Ntale Reaffirms Commitment to USB Mandate

<https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/26/acting-registrar-general-mustapher-ntale-reaffirms-commitment-to-ursb-mandate/> (26.08.2026)

Ambassador Francis Butagira Pledges Focused Strategic Plan Delivery

<https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/26/ambassador-francis-butagira-pledges-focused-strategic-plan-delivery/> (26.08.2026)

Justice Minister Praises URSB as Uganda's Best Government Agency

<https://ursb.go.ug/2026/08/26/justice-minister-praises-ursb-as-ugandas-best-government-agency/>

(26.08.2026)

[Commissioned by JPO]
Africa Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 123

[Author]
KISCH IP

KISCH 

[Published by]
Japan External Trade Organization Dubai Office

JETRO
JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

Published in September 2026
All Rights Reserved

This newsletter was written by KISCH IP and reviewed by JETRO Dubai. In addition, this newsletter is based on information available at the time of creation and may change due to subsequent revisions to laws. The information and comments posted are at the discretion of the author and our office, but we do not guarantee that the general information is correct. Unauthorized reprinting, redistribution, or posting on other websites of the content of this newsletter is prohibited.

Furthermore, JETRO strives to make the information provided as accurate as possible, but it is the reader's responsibility and judgment to confirm the accuracy of the information provided, etc.

JETRO is not responsible for any disadvantages caused using the information supplied through this document.