

ARIPO - AP

Jurisdiction - General Information

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is an inter-governmental organization that facilitates cooperation among its Member States on intellectual property matters, established by the Lusaka Agreement on 9 December 1976.

The Harare Protocol empowers the ARIPO Office to receive and process patent and industrial design applications on behalf of States party to the protocol. The Protocol entered into force in 1984.

The current members of ARIPO are: Botswana, Cape Verde, eSwatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius (not member of the Harare Protocol), Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia (not member of the Harare Protocol), Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

With the exception of Somalia, all ARIPO members are also Contracting Parties to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), however, eSwatini can be designated only via the ARIPO.

ARIPO itself can be designated under the PCT. It is also a member of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

More legal information about intellectual property-related laws and regulations of ARIPO can be found on [WIPO Lex](#).

Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

ARIPO has an [Online Register](#). It also has an [Online Gazette](#) (ARIPO JOURNAL).

Features and search functionalities

The online patent register has an **English interface**.

Through the patent register you can retrieve information on **Legal Status**.

The patent register can also be searched by **PCT Application/Publication Number**, by **Applicant/Inventor Name**, and by **Priority Data**.

The online gazette is searchable by number and downloadable in PDF format, which is published monthly in English. The current coverage is from 2015 to present.

Additional Information

Particularities of patent protection given by ARIPO

The Harare Protocol empowers ARIPO to grant patents and register industrial designs as well as utility models on behalf of the contracting states. The Protocol was first adopted in December 1982 and came

into force in April 1984. Currently, the Protocol is in force in all the Organization's 22 member states except Mauritius and Somalia. The Protocol was amended in 1993 to incorporate the PCT.

There is currently a second patent database including patents of ARIPO and of ARIPO's members built on the WIPO Publish platform available at this [link](#), allowing a selection through a slider button between a search limited to the most frequently used fields and a broader one enlarged to a wide number of search fields, some of which however could be left empty.

Search tips

On the search page of the online register, you can choose between ARIPO and national IP rights, but the latter is currently loading and a search gives no results.

PCT Application/Publication Number searches can be done using formats like, e.g., "PCT Application No." PCT/US99/09463

An example of data reported as a **Legal Status** is, e.g., "Withdrawal" for "Application Number" AP/P/2000/001992

The [Publication Server](#) allows alternative searching of the ARIPO JOURNAL by **Legal Status** (e.g. patent application abandoned, filed, pending grant, patent granted, patent assigned).

[Member States' Journals](#) (currently covering partially Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe and Tanzania only) are available for download.