

## BOTSWANA - BW

### Jurisdiction - General Information

Botswana has been a Contracting Party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property since April 15, 1998. It has also been a Contracting Party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) since October 30, 2003.

Botswana is also a member of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization ([ARIPO](#)).

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

### Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

Botswana has an [Online Register](#) and an [Online Gazette](#).

The Online Register has been made with the platform WIPO Publish, 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.

It can be searched by **Applicant** and **Inventor Name**, and provides a basic **Legal Status** information.

The Online Gazette is published monthly in English. For further enquiries, please contact the relevant authority as indicated in the [WIPO Directory](#).

### Features and search functionalities

ARIPO provides an [online information platform](#) for searching ARIPO and member states' national patents (which are currently being loaded) with an interface in English. For more information about ARIPO, consult the [detailed jurisdiction file](#).

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.

### Additional Information

#### Particularities of patent protection in Botswana

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) of Botswana conducts a formalities examination of patent applications and then transmits them to ARIPO which provides a substantive examination. If the application complies with the legal requirements, a certificate of registration is issued by CIPA and the patent is published in the official journal of Botswana.

A utility model certificate granted in Botswana has a duration of protection 7 years, contrary to the 10 year term provided for ARIPO utility models.

### Search tips

An example of **Legal Status** is, e.g., “Registered” for patent no. BW/P/2008/000011 or “Invalidated” for patent no. BW/P/365/001979.