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IP AFRICA NEWS

November, 2026

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Vol 4/Q4/Issue 10.

Welcome to **Vol. 4, Q4, Issue 10 of JEE Africa IP News.** In this edition, we highlight significant intellectual property developments across Africa, including Rwanda's introduction of wide-ranging reforms to its intellectual property procedures, industrial property agent licensing framework and official fees; Mozambique's adoption of its first dedicated National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy; Uganda's efforts to modernise copyright administration through a new copyright management system; and Chad's registration of its first Protected Geographical Indication under the OAPI system.

We also examine recent developments within the OAPI region, including enhanced cooperation between the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), as well as initiatives to improve access to patent and technical information in the Central African Republic. In addition, we provide our latest **African Trademark Watch** update, highlighting recent trademark journal publications and opposition-monitoring opportunities across selected African jurisdictions, and share highlights from key industry events at which Jackson, Etti & Edu participated, including CANEX WKND 2026, the 7th All Africa Intellectual Property Summit (AAIPS 2026), and the upcoming 8th Privacy Symposium Africa (PSA 2026).



RWANDA INTRODUCES SIGNIFICANT REFORMS TO ITS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYSTEM

Rwanda has introduced significant changes to its intellectual property framework through Ministerial Order No. 001/MINICOM/26 of 12 October 2026, published in the Official Gazette (Special) on 13 October 2026.

The Order introduces new procedures for IP oppositions and appeals, establishes licensing requirements for industrial property agents, prescribes a revised power of attorney format, provides for compulsory patent licences in specified circumstances and revises official IP fees.

These reforms represent an important step in the development of Rwanda's intellectual property system and reflect a broader trend across Africa towards more structured, transparent and enforceable IP regimes. The introduction of formal opposition and appeal mechanisms provides rights holders and third parties with clearer avenues to challenge or defend IP registrations, while the licensing of industrial property agents is expected to strengthen professional standards, accountability and regulatory oversight.

For businesses, the changes extend beyond administrative compliance. More structured dispute resolution procedures and updated compulsory licensing provisions may influence how companies protect, commercialise and enforce their intellectual property in Rwanda. The revised fee structure also has cost implications for local and foreign rights holders and may necessitate adjustments to filing budgets and portfolio management strategies.



MOZAMBIQUE ADOPTS NEW NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY AND STRATEGY

Mozambique has approved a new National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy (PEPI) 2026-2035, introducing its first comprehensive national policy dedicated exclusively to intellectual property. Approved through Council of Ministers Resolution No. 53/2026 of 30 June 2026, the strategy replaces the country's previous Intellectual Property Strategy 2008-2018 and seeks to modernize IP administration, legislation and enforcement in response to emerging technologies and the digital economy.

A key component of the strategy is the digitalization of IP administration procedures through information and communication technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI). The government plans to undertake a dedicated study on the impact of AI and digital technologies on the country's IP legal framework, examining issues such as the patentability of AI-related inventions, inventive-step requirements and disclosure standards. The strategy also proposes reviewing copyright legislation to strengthen the protection and commercialization of creative works in digital environments.

The implementation framework includes establishing a National Intellectual Property Commission to harmonize IP policies and legislation, strengthening coordination among enforcement authorities, and developing digital platforms and support services to facilitate IP registration and commercialization. The government also intends to improve enforcement against counterfeiting, piracy and other IP infringements, particularly in digital environments.

The strategy provides for implementation through 2035, with an initial review scheduled for 2028, a mid-term revision in 2030 and a further evaluation in 2033. Its legal and institutional modernisation component represents the largest planned investment, amounting to 719.6 million meticais, including 632 million meticais allocated to strengthening the IP institutional framework.

Why this matters

Mozambique's new strategy signals a policy shift towards integrating digital transformation and emerging technologies into national IP administration and regulation. The proposed study on AI-related inventions could inform future approaches to patentability, inventorship and disclosure, while the planned copyright reforms may affect creators and businesses distributing or commercializing digital content.

For companies, innovators and rights holders operating in Mozambique, the strategy presents potential opportunities for more accessible IP registration and stronger enforcement, while highlighting the need to monitor forthcoming legislative changes and regulatory guidance. Its impact will ultimately depend on effective implementation, institutional investment and the development of clear legal standards for emerging technologies.



The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) are advancing the rollout of a new copyright management system intended to modernize copyright administration and strengthen protection for creators and rights holders.

The initiative seeks to improve transparency in royalty collection and distribution, streamline copyright registration and strengthen copyright administration and enforcement. It is also expected to support fairer remuneration for creators by enhancing accountability within Uganda's collective rights management ecosystem.

The system, which is owned by collective management organisations and supported through URSB oversight mechanisms, forms part of broader efforts to strengthen the administration and enforcement of copyright in Uganda's creative sector.

Why this matters

The initiative has the potential to improve how copyright is administered in Uganda by promoting greater transparency, accountability and efficiency in royalty management. For creators and rights holders, a more effective system could strengthen confidence in collective rights management and improve access to revenues generated from the use of their works.

More broadly, the development reflects increasing efforts across Africa to modernise copyright administration and create environments that better support creative industries, innovation and investment. Its effectiveness will depend on the system's implementation, the participation of relevant stakeholders and the establishment of reliable mechanisms for tracking and distributing royalties.



CHAD REGISTERS ITS FIRST PROTECTED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Chad has achieved a significant intellectual property milestone with the registration of DIHE, also known as Spirulina of Chad, as the country's first Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) under the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

The official registration certificate was presented by OAPI's Director General, Denis L. Bohoussou, at a ceremony held in N'Djamena on 12 October 2026. The recognition represents an important development in the protection and promotion of products whose characteristics, reputation or qualities are linked to their geographical origin.

Geographical indications provide a means of identifying products originating from a particular geographical area where a specific quality, reputation or other characteristic is attributable to that origin. They can serve as valuable commercial assets by distinguishing products in the marketplace and protecting their reputation against misleading use.

Why this matters

The registration of DIHE demonstrates the potential of geographical indications to support local industries, preserve traditional production practices and create commercial value from products associated with particular geographical regions.

For producers and businesses, GI protection can help differentiate products, strengthen consumer confidence and create opportunities for market expansion and exports. It may also support rural economic development by enabling local producers to collectively benefit from the reputation associated with their products.

The development is particularly relevant to other African countries seeking to identify and protect products with distinctive geographical characteristics and commercial potential. It also highlights the importance of developing effective quality-control and collective management structures to ensure that GI protection translates into sustainable economic benefits



OAPI AND CANADA STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) have strengthened their cooperation through a 2026-2027 Annual Work Plan signed in Ottawa on 26 October 2026.

The agreement, concluded by OAPI's Director General, Denis L. Bohoussou, and CIPO's President, Konstantinos Georgaras, provides a framework for continued collaboration between the two institutions in promoting intellectual property protection and innovation.

The cooperation focuses on areas including combating counterfeiting, protecting digital creations, promoting innovation, strengthening awareness of intellectual property rights, and facilitating the exchange of expertise and best practices.

The initiative forms part of broader international efforts to strengthen IP systems through institutional collaboration, knowledge-sharing and improved enforcement mechanisms.

Why this matters

The partnership highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing the increasingly cross-border nature of intellectual property infringement, particularly counterfeiting and digital piracy.

For businesses operating in the OAPI region, stronger institutional cooperation may contribute to improved enforcement practices, greater awareness of IP rights and more effective responses to infringement. It also reinforces the importance of understanding the OAPI system when developing regional IP protection and enforcement strategies.

The agreement further demonstrates the value of collaboration between regional and national IP offices in building stronger intellectual property ecosystems that support innovation, trade and investment.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC STRENGTHENS ACCESS TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

The Central African Republic has taken a further step towards strengthening its intellectual property infrastructure following the inauguration of a renovated Intellectual Property Documentation Centre (CDPI) in Bangui on 6 November 2026.

The inauguration formed part of a visit by OAPI's Director General, Denis L. Bohoussou, during which discussions were also held with the country's Prime Minister on cooperation in innovation, research and the strategic use of intellectual property.

The Documentation Centre is intended to provide researchers, students, inventors, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders with access to technical documentation and patent publications from around the world. Its resources are expected to support research, technological development and the identification of existing innovations.

The facility brings the number of operational Intellectual Property Documentation Centres within the OAPI region to 14.

Why this matters

Access to patent information is an important component of innovation and technological development. Patent databases provide valuable technical information that can assist researchers and businesses in identifying existing inventions, assessing technological developments and avoiding unnecessary duplication of research.

For African innovators and entrepreneurs, improved access to such resources can support the development of new products and technologies, inform patentability assessments and facilitate the commercialisation of research.

The initiative also highlights the importance of strengthening IP infrastructure beyond registration and enforcement, particularly by making technical and patent information more accessible to the innovation ecosystem.



AFRICAN TRADEMARK WATCH: JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS AND OPPOSITION MONITORING.

Recent trademark journal publications across several African jurisdictions have opened new opposition windows for rights holders. Businesses should review newly advertised applications and take timely action where potentially conflicting marks may affect their branding, expansion or enforcement strategies.

The following publications were identified during the period covered by this edition:

- **Nigeria:** The Nigerian Trademarks Registry has published its **Trademark Journal Vol. 1, No. 4, (Online/ IPAS) of 23 October 2026.** The publication advertises trademark applications and initiates the applicable **two-month opposition periods**.

- **Ghana:** The Registrar General's Department recently published the **Industrial Trade Marks Bulletin (Journal), October 2026 Editions (Gazette Nos. 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D)** on **6 October 2026**. The publications advertise trademark applications and commenced the applicable 60-day opposition period.

- **Zanzibar:** The Business and Property Registration Agency (BPRA) published the **Zanzibar Industrial Property Journal (BPRA/IP.J/No.11)** on **5 November 2026**. The publication initiated the applicable **60-day opposition period**.

- **OAPI:** The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) recently issued the **Official Industrial Property Bulletin (BOPI) No. 20MQ2026** on **30 October 2026**. The publication advertises trademark applications across OAPI member states and commenced the applicable **three-month opposition period.**



AWARDS: GLOBALWIIN RECOGNISES JACKSON, ETTI & EDU FOR 30 YEARS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEADERSHIP



Jackson, Etti & Edu has been recognised with the **GlobalWIIN Special Honorary Award** for **30 Years of Intellectual Property Leadership and Excellence**. The award was presented in London on 5 November 2026 and received on behalf of the Firm by our Senior Partner, Mrs Uwa Ohiku.

The award recognises our longstanding contribution to the development of intellectual property practice, including our commitment to protecting, managing and commercialising intellectual property assets, supporting innovation, advancing IP education, and promoting diversity and inclusion.

EVENTS

- **CANEX WKND 2026**



Jackson, Etti & Edu participated in **Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) WKND 2026**, one of Africa's leading creative industry gatherings, organized by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and held from 5 to 8 November 2026 in Lagos, Nigeria. Notably, this marked the first time the event was hosted in Lagos, underscoring Nigeria's growing importance in Africa's creative and cultural economy.

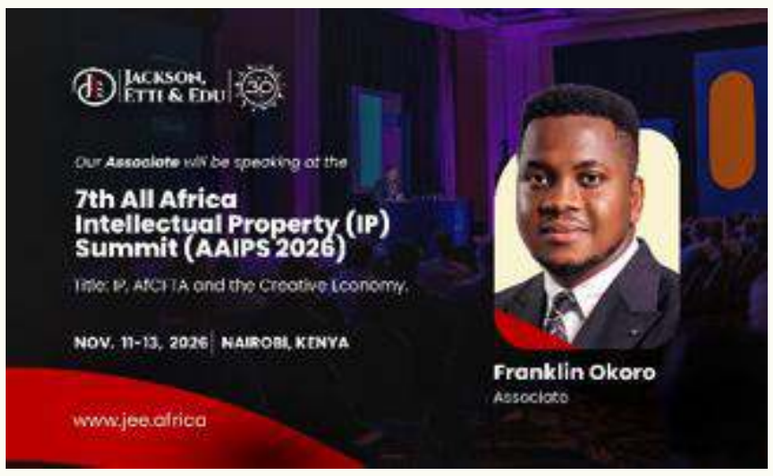
Representing the Firm, **Kodichinma Anigbogu**, Head of the Commercial Intellectual Property and Data Protection Unit, participated as a speaker in a panel session titled: **Creator & Influencer Economy Roundtable – Platform Rights, Brand Deals, AI Content & Digital Monetisation.**

The session provided practical insights into how creatives can identify, protect and maximize the value of their intellectual property assets. Discussions covered emerging issues relating to artificial intelligence and ownership rights, the importance of appropriate licensing and assignment arrangements, and the need for carefully structured commercial agreements to govern creative collaborations and the exploitation of intellectual property assets.

Jackson, Etti & Edu's participation reflects the Firm's continued commitment to supporting innovation, creativity and the effective protection and commercialisation of intellectual property across Africa.

- **7TH ALL AFRICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SUMMIT (AAIPS 2026)**





Jackson, Etti & Edu participated in the 7th All Africa Intellectual Property Summit (AAIPS 2026), held from 11 to 13 November 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Representing the Firm, **Onyedikachi Agbara** moderated a session titled “From Talent to Trade: Making IP Work for African Creators,” which explored how intellectual property can be leveraged to protect, commercialise and maximise the value of creative works across Africa.

Franklin Okoro also participated as a panellist in a session on “IP, AfCFTA and the Creative Economy,” where discussions focused on the role of intellectual property in facilitating cross-border trade, supporting innovation and advancing the growth of Africa's creative industries within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Summit brought together intellectual property professionals, policymakers, innovators, business leaders and other stakeholders from across the continent to examine emerging trends and developments shaping Africa's intellectual property landscape.

The Firm was pleased to contribute to these important discussions and engage with stakeholders on the protection, commercialisation and strategic use of intellectual property across Africa. Jackson, Etti & Edu's participation reflects the Firm's continued commitment to thought leadership and the advancement of intellectual property rights, innovation and creativity across the continent.

- **8TH PRIVACY SYMPOSIUM AFRICA (PSA 2026)**



Jackson, Etti & Edu will participate in the **8th Privacy Symposium Africa (PSA 2026)**, scheduled to hold on **25 and 26 November 2026** at the **Alisa Hotel, Accra, Ghana**. The symposium, themed **"Money. Data. Control."**, will bring together policymakers, regulators, privacy professionals, technology companies, academics, civil society organisations and other stakeholders from across Africa to explore the evolving relationship between data governance, technological innovation and economic development.

Representing the Firm, the Deputy Head of the Commercial Intellectual Property and Data Protection Unit, **Mercy Matthew**, will moderate a session titled **"Fintech, Mobile Money & Data: Driving Inclusion While Managing Risk."**

The session will examine the opportunities and risks arising from the growing use of digital financial services, with a focus on data protection, consumer trust, financial inclusion and regulatory approaches to emerging technologies in Africa's digital economy.

Thank you for reading JEE Africa IP News. We remain committed to keeping our clients and stakeholders informed of key intellectual property developments across Africa and to providing practical guidance on the protection, enforcement and commercialization of intellectual property rights throughout the continent.

Jackson, Etti & Edu

Protecting Innovation. Creating Value. Across Africa.

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