

2015

ANNUAL REPORT

*Fostering creativity and
innovation for economic growth
and development in Africa*



ARIPO Annual Report 2015

ARIPO
Harare, Zimbabwe
2016

FOREWORD

The year 2015 marked the end of the roll out of the ARIPO Strategic Plan 2011-2015. Many projects and programmes that were initiated during that 5 year period were successfully concluded. It is my privilege to share this Annual Report 2015, which espouses some remarkable achievements made and challenges faced by the Organization in the quest to meet the expectations of our different stakeholders.

During the year 2015, the ARIPO Secretariat made significant scores in various areas thanks to the commitment of the team of staff at the Secretariat and the seamless support and involvement of the ARIPO governing bodies and the various cooperating partners.

On May 11 of the review year, the Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore entered into force enabling the Organization to begin registering traditional knowledge and ensuring that it is properly utilized for the benefit of the rights holders.

Another important milestone was the adoption by a Diplomatic Conference of the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants in Arusha, Tanzania on July 6, 2015. The Arusha Protocol will provide Member States with a regional plant variety protection system that will in the long run become central in contributing to the attainment of the regional goal of economic development and food security. Incentivizing plant breeders will ensure that research on seed varieties and technologies that can effectively mitigate against the ever changing climatic conditions as well as plant diseases and pests that have been increasingly developing resistance to some available control methods is nurtured.

With regard to infrastructural development, the Office commenced the construction of the extension of the ARIPO headquarters in May. The project, which is envisaged to last 12 months, will certainly change the face of ARIPO. It will provide more offices, conference rooms, meeting rooms and adequate parking bays for staff and clients.

The ARIPO/WIPO/KOICA Project to Upgrade and Modernize the ARIPO ICT Infrastructure and those of its Member States, which was funded and implemented with the assistance of KOICA and WIPO, was completed in the year and on April 25, the new state-of-the-art system for filing applications and searching of technological information was inaugurated. The commissioning of this system, puts ARIPO's IP administration processes at comparable status with those found in other advanced IP offices in the world. It is envisaged that, when the project is fully rolled



out to include the Member States module, the resulting online communication and information exchanges between the Secretariat and the Member States will enhance our operations massively.

To ensure a sustained presence in the Member States for the purpose of current awareness and supporting the National IP Offices of the Member States, the ARIPO flagship program "ARIPO Roving Seminars", was rolled out to five more countries in the year 2015. This was in Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda and Zambia directly benefitting 664 participants. With the series of the Roving Seminars conducted in 2015, the number of countries that benefitted since the programme was initiated is 11, bringing the total number of participants to 1400.

In order for the Secretariat to meet the targeted performance levels, credit goes to the various capacity building initiatives that we expose our staff to both internally and externally (where internal capacity is limited). In this regard,

23 ARIPO members of staff benefitted from 13 training activities they attended in Zimbabwe and in other countries.

The 8th cohort of the MIP degree program, which is jointly offered by ARIPO/WIPO and Africa University, graduated in June 2015. As part of efforts to support the programme, a total of 45 students have been offered scholarships by ARIPO since the inception of the programme in 2008.

The ARIPO Academy in collaboration with WIPO and other cooperating partners, organized training seminars at the headquarters targeting participants from various IP related sectors from the Member States. The training seminars were successful because of the support and facilitation that was got from the Member States.

To continue fostering mutual cooperation with key partners and in line with Article VI of the Lusaka Agreement, ARIPO signed four co-operation agreements with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China.

On financial management, the income projected for 2015 was US\$5.5 million. The total revenue received was US\$5.4 million, being 98% of the projection. The expenditure was budgeted at US\$5.2 million and approved by the Administrative Council. The actual amount spent totaled US\$5.1 million corresponding to 98% of the budgeted expenditure leaving a surplus of US\$0.1 million. The sound financial management system is a major positive trend in

the Organization which needs to be adhered to at all times.

Among the few negatives for the year was the general decrease in the number of industrial property applications that were received by the office in the review year when compared to the previous year 2014. Patent applications were down by 6.6%, Industrial Designs continued on the downward slump with the 2015 applications registering a 20% drop from 2014. Trademark applications also dropped by 21.8% in 2015. However, a big positive change of 110% was registered in the number of Utility Model applications which were received compared to the previous years.

Still on industrial property activities, there was a 68% increase in number of granted patents in 2015. However, registrations in trademarks and industrial designs were lower by varying degrees as compared to 2014.

Looking ahead, the achievements and challenges of 2015, give us valuable experiences and an appropriate foothold as we now pursue the newly adopted 2016-2020 Value and Growth Strategy that is intended to guide our operations for the coming five years.

More importantly, all these achievements could not have been registered without the massive support from our Member States, co-operating partners, stakeholders and the staff of the secretariat who have embraced the philosophy of team work and the freedom to be innovative in their areas of work.

Fernando dos Santos
Director General

ORGANS OF ARIPO

OVERVIEW

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is governed through various organs. These organs are; the Council of Ministers, Administrative Council, Board of Appeal and the Secretariat. The Administrative Council

has subsidiary bodies, namely Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Staff Affairs Committee and four Technical Committees. See Figure 1 below.

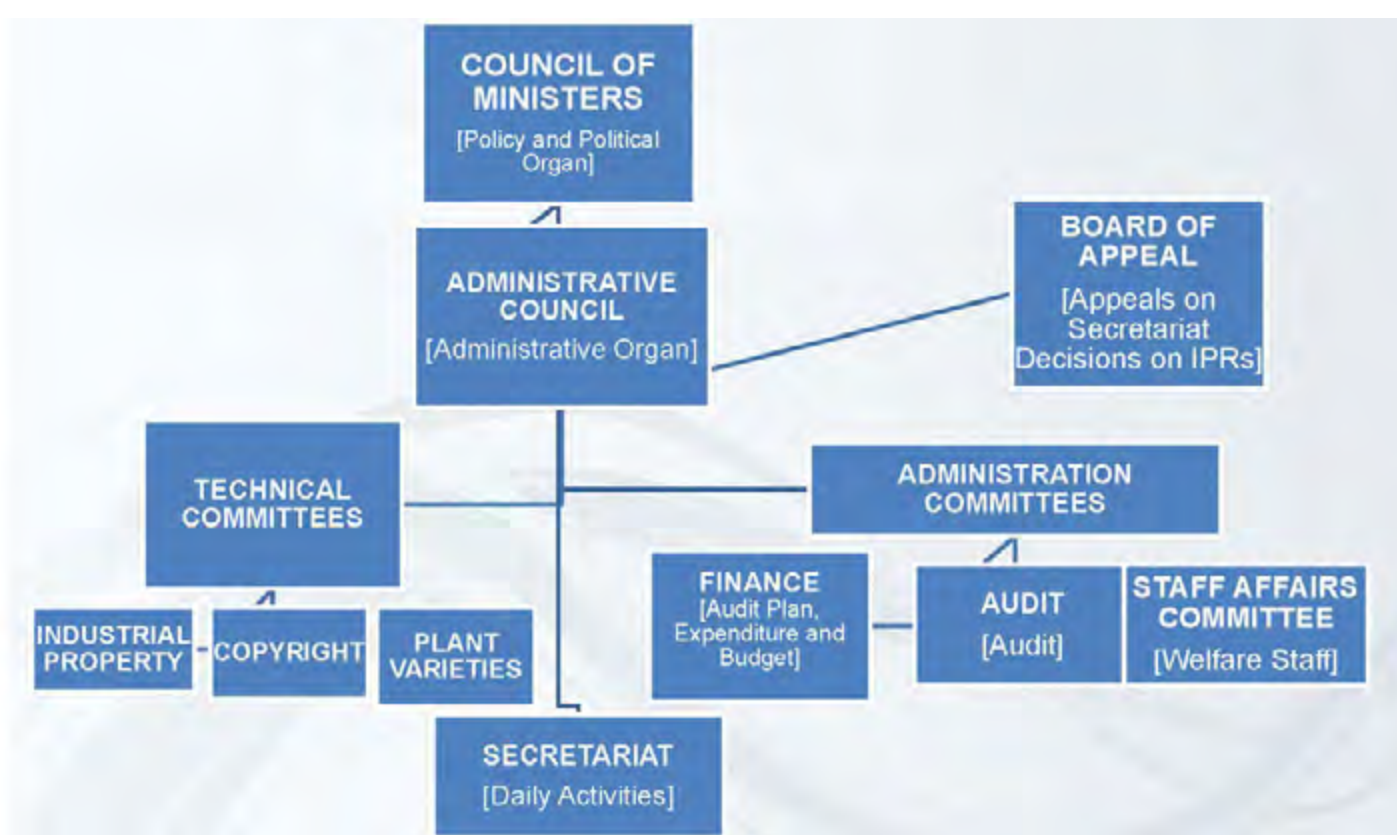


Figure 1. Organs of ARIPO and specialized committees of the Administrative Council of ARIPO.

Council of ministers

The Council of Ministers comprises Ministers of governments of ARIPO Member States who are responsible for the administration of intellectual property laws in their respective countries. It is the supreme organ of the Organization. While constituted under Article II of the Lusaka Agreement, its functions and composition are established under Article VIbis of the Lusaka Agreement.

As the Organization's supreme assembly, it is empowered to resolve "problems of the Organization which, because of their nature, cannot be resolved by the Administrative Council".

Thus, besides the power to receive reports from the chairperson of the Administrative Council, it has responsibility to decide in what Member State the headquarters can be placed as well as determine financial contributions which

Member States should make. It is furthermore empowered to give directions to the Administrative Council or the Secretariat on work or policy orientation. Although it can meet in an extraordinary session, its decisions are mostly made during its ordinary meetings which are convened once every two years.

The Republic of Zambia is currently chairing the Council of Ministers. (See page 20).

Administrative Council and its Committees

The Administrative Council is composed of heads of offices responsible for industrial property and copyright in Member States. The Administrative Council is subordinate to the Council of Ministers to which it reports through the Chairman of the Administrative Council. Currently, the Republic of Zambia is chairing the Administrative Council. (See page 19 for the current composition of the Administrative Council sub-committees that are listed below)

Finance

This committee reviews the budget and programme of activities of the Organization before the Administrative Council considers them.

Audit Committee

This committee considers audit issues and provides assurance that the oversight function is in place at the Organization.

Staff Affairs Committee

The committee considers conditions of service of ARIPO Secretariat staff before they are considered and concluded

by the Administrative Council.

Technical Committees

The Administrative Council created Technical Committees to consider and review technical matters of the Organization before they are tabled before it for consideration. The Technical Committees are each dedicated to a specific subject of the Organization's functions. In consequence, there were four Technical Committees by the end of the review year as follows:

- Technical Committee on Industrial Property,
- Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights,
- Technical Committee on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore, and a
- Technical Committee on Plant Varieties Protection.

Board of Appeal

The Board of Appeal is established to hear and review appeals against the administrative decisions of the Office in the implementation of the ARIPO protocols. It is independent of any organ of the Organization.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the day to day activities of the Organization and implementation of policies issued by the Administrative Council or/and the Council of Ministers. It is headed by a Director General who is the principal executive officer of the Organization. Each holder of the office must be a citizen of an ARIPO Member State. The current incumbent is Mr. Fernando A. dos Santos, a national of Mozambique.

The ARIPO Secretariat is located at No. 11 Natal Road, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe.

ARIPO'S LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

LUSAKA AGREEMENT

Overview

ARIPO was established under the Lusaka Agreement, which was signed in Lusaka, Zambia, on 9 December 1976. The Organization's objectives are, inter alia, to promote, harmonize and develop intellectual property systems in Africa.

Membership

Membership to ARIPO is open to Member States of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) or the African Union (AU). As at 31 December 2015, ARIPO was comprised of 19 Member States and these are listed below:




















COUNTRY	ARIPO MEMBERSHIP DATE	COUNTRY	ARIPO MEMBERSHIP DATE
Botswana 	6.2.1985	São Tomé & Príncipe 	19.05.2014
The Gambia 	15.2.1978	Sierra Leone 	5.12.1980
Ghana 	15.2.1978	Somalia 	10.12.1981
Kenya 	15.2.1978	Sudan 	2.5.1978
Lesotho 	23.7.1987	Swaziland 	17.12.1987
Liberia 	24.12.2009	United Republic of Tanzania 	12.10.1983
Malawi 	15.2.1978	Uganda 	8.8.1978
Mozambique 	8.2.2000	Zambia 	15.2.1978
Namibia 	14.10.2003	Zimbabwe 	11.11.1980
Rwanda 	24.6.2011		

Table 1. ARIPO's Member States as at end of 2015 and their status as to the Lusaka Agreement.

THE HARARE PROTOCOL

The Lusaka Agreement was complemented by a Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs (the Harare Protocol) as from 25 April, 1984. The protocol empowers ARIPO to grant patents and register industrial designs as well as utility models on behalf of the Harare Protocol contracting states. Currently, the Protocol is in force in all the Member States except Somalia (see Table 2 below).

In 1993, the protocol was amended to incorporate the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which is governed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This enabled the ARIPO Office to act as receiving office or designated office or elected office for Harare Protocol

contracting states that are party as well to the PCT. Furthermore, the Administrative Council amended the Harare Protocol in 1998 by incorporating provisions of the Budapest Treaty on International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. This aimed to increase legal security of patent applications for microorganisms.

The protocol was further amended in 2015 in order to improve and harmonize it with the new automated Industrial Property Business Processing ICT System (POLite+) and with international treaties like the Paris Convention and the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS).

MEMBER STATE & DATE OF MEMBERSHIP	HARARE PROTOCOL STATUS
Botswana (6 February, 1985)	6 May, 1985
The Gambia (15 February, 1978)	16 January, 1986
Ghana (15 February, 1978)	25 April, 1984
Kenya (15 February, 1978)	24 October, 1984
Lesotho (23 July, 1987)	23 October, 1987
Liberia (24 December, 2009)	24 March, 2010
Malawi (15 February, 1978)	25 April, 1984
Mozambique (8 February, 2000)	8 May, 2000
Namibia (14 October, 2003)	23 April, 2004
Rwanda (24 June, 2011)	24 September, 2011
São Tomé & Príncipe (19 May, 2014)	19 August, 2014
Sierra Leone (5 December, 1980)	25 February, 1999
Sudan (2 May, 1978)	25 April, 1984
Swaziland (17 December, 1987)	17 March, 1988
Tanzania (12 October, 1983)	1 September, 1999
Uganda (8 August, 1978)	25 April, 1984
Zambia (15 February, 1978)	26 February, 1986
Zimbabwe (11 November, 1980)	25 April, 1984

Table 2. Member States and dates when they became Harare Protocol contracting states

THE BANJUL PROTOCOL

Adopted in 1993 by the Administrative Council, the Banjul Protocol on Marks entered into force in 1997. This Protocol empowers ARIPO to register marks on behalf of the Protocol's contracting states. The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe acceded to the Banjul Protocol on Marks on November 27, 2015 and the Protocol will enter into force, with respect to the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe on February 27, 2016. The accession to the Banjul Protocol by the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe brings the number of Member States party to the Protocol to 10 (see Table 3 below).

The protocol has been amended several times with the

latest being the amendments adopted by the Thirty-ninth session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO in 2015. The latest amendments to the Banjul Protocol have been made to improve its performance and uptake by the ARIPO Member States. The amendments have also been necessitated by the developments in the international trademark practice and are based on proposals from users and Member States.

The amended protocol now accommodates electronic filing of marks, which will facilitate the automation of trademarks processing. This automated processing will include online filing, online payment and online inspection of applications.

MEMBER STATE & DATE OF MEMBERSHIP	BANJUL PROTOCOL STATUS
Botswana (6 February, 1985)	29 October, 2003
Lesotho (23 July, 1987)	12 February, 1999
Liberia (24 December, 2009)	24 March, 2010
Malawi (15 February, 1978)	6 March, 1997
Namibia (14 October, 2003)	14 January, 2004
São Tomé & Príncipe (19 May, 2014)	27.11.2015
Swaziland (17 December, 1987)	17 March, 1988
Tanzania (12 October, 1983)	1 September, 1999
Uganda (8 August, 1978)	21 November, 2000
Zimbabwe (11 November, 1980)	6 March, 1997

Table 3. Member States and dates when they became Banjul Protocol contracting states

THE SWAKOPMUND PROTOCOL

The Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore was adopted in 2010. The protocol entered into force on May 11, 2015. By the end of the year, the protocol had received 7 ratifications from Botswana, The Gambia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The protocol aims to protect the overall traditional knowledge and folklore of Africa and to ensure that same is properly utilized for the welfare of her people.

A business plan for the implementation of the protocol was developed with the objective being to enable the Member States of the Organization to maximize the benefits to be derived from this protocol. The plan also provides mechanisms for effective protection of traditional knowledge

and expressions of folklore at the national level. It also entails a coordinated approach to the protection of the resources including the mutual recognition and enforcement of rights and obligations among the Member States.

Activities Done Under the Swakopmund Protocol

Two Roving Seminars were held in Lusaka, Zambia and Accra, Ghana which focused on the Protection and Utilization of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore.

In the year under review, ARIPO continued to be involved in regional and international meetings on Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore.

STATES THAT HAVE RATIFIED, OR ACCEDED TO, THE PROTOCOL AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2015	DATE ON WHICH STATE BECAME PARTY TO THE PROTOCOL
Botswana	28 March, 2012
The Gambia	11 February, 2015
Malawi	20 December, 2012
Namibia	11 February, 2015
Rwanda	16 July, 2012
Zambia	28 August, 2015
Zimbabwe	22 April, 2013

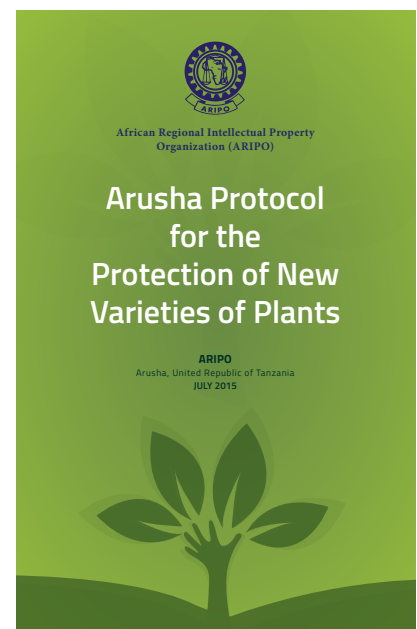
Table 4. Member States and dates when they became Swakopmund Protocol contracting states

THE ARUSHA PROTOCOL

The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants is the newest of the ARIPO protocols. The Arusha Protocol was adopted by a Diplomatic Conference that was held in Arusha, Tanzania on July 6, 2015. The protocol will provide Member States with a regional plant variety protection system that recognizes the need to provide growers and farmers with improved varieties of plants in order to ensure sustainable agricultural production. The provision for plant breeders' rights in the region will allow farmers access to a wide range of improved varieties thereby contributing to the attainment of the regional goal of economic development and food security.

The Office has developed a road map for the development of the draft regulations for the implementation of the Arusha Protocol, which was approved and adopted by the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO in Lusaka, Zambia.

By the end of the review year, the Arusha Protocol had received five signatures from The Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, São Tomé & Príncipe, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The protocol will however only enter into force 12 months after four States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.



Delegates to the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of the Arusha Protocol on Protection of New Varieties of Plants

MEMBER STATES OF ARIPO



Figure 2. Map of Africa showing ARIPO Member States as at 31 December 2015.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

MANDATE ON THE PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

Background

The ARIPO Office has, in its preparatory work which is envisaged to lead to the conclusion of a protocol that should govern the proposed regional protection of geographical indications (GIs) as well as boost development and harmonization of geographical indications laws of Member States, further reviewed the Draft Legal Framework during 2015. In addition, a study visit was conducted to the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) by a staff member of ARIPO from August 10 to 14 to learn from the experience of OAPI on the implementation of a GI system. OAPI has already registered 3 geographical indications products from Africa.

Furthermore, at the invitation of WIPO, ARIPO attended

the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications jointly organized by WIPO and the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) in Budapest, Hungary from 20 to 22 October.

In the coming year, ARIPO will organize national and regional consultative meetings to discuss and conduct an in-depth review of the legal framework before its final submission for adoption.

Information on potential geographical indications in Member States will be collected and analysed. ARIPO will also strengthen the ARIPO – EU co-operation on the identification of origin-based products in ARIPO Member States for their protection and promotion.

THE ARIPO ASSEMBLIES

THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



The Administrative Council of ARIPO in one of its Sessions

Introduction

The Administrative Council is the second highest policy making body of ARIPO. It meets every year to consider reports of activities of the year concerned as well as approve work plans for the year that follows. In 2015, the Council met in its Thirty-ninth Session in Lusaka, Zambia, from November 16 to 18, 2015. It attended to many agenda items amongst which were approving the 2016 budget and programme of activities and other vexing issues requiring the Council's attention. Sixteen Member States of

the Organization were represented at the Session, namely; Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Several inter-governmental organizations and cooperating partners were represented. These were; the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), OAPI, the International Union for New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the International Federation for Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO) and the International Trademark Association (INTA).

The Republic of Angola was the only Observer State represented. Patent agents who attended were; Adams and Adams of South Africa, NexLaw Advocates of the United Republic of Tanzania, Spoor and Fisher of South Africa, Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Development Trust and the Zimbabwe Institute of Patent and Trademark Agents.

Mrs. Margaret Mwanakatwe (MP), the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of the Republic of Zambia officially opened the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council. A number of critical decisions were taken on the agenda items of the session.

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The Director General's report highlighted the main achievements of ARIPO during the year under consideration. Such achievements include the coming into force of the Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore; the adoption of the Arusha Protocol on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants; the commencement of the construction of the extension of the ARIPO Headquarters and the launch of the new state-of-the-art system for filing applications and searching of technological information online which was implemented under the ARIPO/WIPO/KOICA Project.

The report further gave details of users' meetings, roving seminars undertaken in five Member States, namely; Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda and Zambia. It further presented

highlights of activities carried out under capacity building for both ARIPO members of staff and officers from Member States. The activities include the flagship Masters in Intellectual Property degree programme offered through a tripartite agreement involving ARIPO, WIPO and the programme host-Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Finally, the Director General informed the Council on the conclusions of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with strategic partners such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Introduction

To function properly and make informed decisions, the Administrative Council established some committees subordinate to itself whose purpose is to help it on some technical issues. These subsidiary committees—except the Audit Committee which meets four times a year—meet each year before the convening of the Sessions of the Administrative Council itself. These subsidiary committees are; Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Staff Affairs Committee, Technical Committee on Industrial Property, Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, Technical Committee on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore as well as a Technical Committee on New Plant Varieties Protection.

The meetings of these subsidiary committees of the Organization were all duly convened at the Headquarters of the Organization in Harare, Republic of Zimbabwe as provided for under Article VII [e] of the Lusaka Agreement. The Committees reviewed the Secretariat's documents, made comments and further recommended that the reviewed documents be submitted for further consideration to the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council that was held in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia from November 16 to 18.

Staff Affairs Committee

The Committee met for its Fourteenth Session from October 20 to 23 at the ARIPO headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Committee informed the Thirty-ninth session of the Administrative Council about the recruitment of the Copyright Officer, the Legal Officer, the Systems Administrator and the Driver, which took place in the year under review. These recruitments were either to fill in the vacancies left by those who had left the Organization for various reasons in the preceding year 2014 or to fill new vacancies that had arisen in the Organization. Further, the committee successfully recommended to the administrative council, the adoption of the implementation status of the Human Resources Development Plan as well as the procedures for members of the Adhoc Committee on Recruitment, Promotion and Advancement. Importantly, the Committee also tabled to Council for approval an amended version of the draft organizational structure, the proposed staff establishment and the updated grading system, all which had just been finalized by a first ever Extra-Ordinary Session of the Staff Affairs Committee which was held

in Lusaka, Zambia from November 13 to 14. The Draft ARIPO Organizational Structure, which was proposed by the secretariat with the assistance of Deloitte Consultancy Services as well as the proposed staff establishment and the updated grading system, were duly approved by the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council.

Further, Council approved the appointment of Mr. Omiti John Fredrick Onunga—a Kenyan national—to the post of Patent Examiner (Mechanical Engineering) and granted a request by the Committee to recruit a new Documentation and Publications Officer to replace Mr. Wilbrod Mulenga who was leaving the Organization on November 30, on retirement.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee held its Twenty-second Session from October 20 to 23 at the ARIPO headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Committee informed Council that it had considered during the Session, a number of reports and matters brought before it by the Secretariat. These included; the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014, the report on the Member States' financial position for the period ending August 31, 2015, the report on the ARIPO reserve fund for the period ending August 31, 2015, the report on the status of the Draft Investigation Manual and the Risk Management Framework, the report on the implementation of the work plan for the year 2015, and the proposed activities as well as the draft budget for the year 2016 for onward recommendation to the Thirty-ninth session of the Administrative Council. It then presented its recommendations on these matters to the Thirty-ninth Session for adoption and noting, which was duly done.

Joint Staff Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee and the Staff Affairs Committee meet annually in a Joint Session to deliberate on matters arising from either committee which have financial implications. At the Thirty-ninth Session, the Committee apprised the Council of outcomes of the deliberations of its Seventh Joint Session, which was held from October 20 to 23. It informed Council that the issues, which were discussed included the draft ARIPO Strategic Plan for the Period 2016- 2020, the proposed new ARIPO Logo, the report on the study on the personnel costs and the consideration of

the investment options of the staff gratuity. Taking note of the report of the Joint Staff Affairs Committee and Finance Committee, Council also approved the recommendation for the payment of gratuity on completion of contract and the gradual commencement of payment of gratuity, which is in arrears by way of instalments on a gradual basis subject to the availability of funds.



Members of the 7th Joint Staff Affairs and Finance Committee in a group photo at the ARIPO headquarters

Audit Committee

The Committee held two sessions during the review year at the ARIPO headquarters. It first met from May 21 to 22 and from September 14 to 16 in its First and Second Sessions respectively.

The Audit Committee deliberated on the Internal Audit Charter, report of the Internal Auditor, report of the External Auditor, Draft Investigation Manual, appointment of External Auditors and the frequency of Audit Committee meetings. The Audit Committee made observations on the External Auditor's report mainly on budget deficit, cash flow and made inference to the guidance given to the Internal Auditor to address some of the performance gaps noted in the incumbent.

Further, it recommended that the Head of Internal Audit at the Secretariat be a senior position on the ARIPO organizational structure. It also recommended that the Organization should come up with a Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Professional Standards for ARIPO staff. The committee emphasized on the need for the independence of Internal Audit in reporting. It also submitted that 3 years was now the standard term for the appointment of External Auditors unlike the 5 years obtaining at the moment.

The Administrative Council noted the recommendations of the Audit Committee and further approved that the Head of Internal Audit be placed at Head of Department level in the new approved organizational structure. It unanimously agreed that the Audit Committee should meet quarterly.

The Administrative council also adopted the amended Internal Audit Charter that was developed to enhance the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function in strengthening accountability, stewardship and corporate governance in the Organization.

Technical Committee on Industrial Property

The Fifth Session of the Technical Committee on Industrial Property was held from August 26 to 28. The Committee reported to Council that it had discussed and adopted for recommendation to the Thirty-ninth Session several proposals and matters amongst which were, proposals to amend the Banjul and Harare Protocols to facilitate the automation of business processing procedures for IP titles so that they are aligned to international best practices, proposals to reduce filing fees for applications lodged online for both protocols, proposal to create a policy framework for patent agents' accreditation, the ICT projects for IP integration and sharing between ARIPO, its Member States and the public; the implementation of the mandate on geographical indications; the implementation of the five-year development plan of the ARIPO academy; proposals for a roadmap for the development of draft regulations for the implementation of the Arusha Protocol, and lastly to consider a report of the ARIPO national roving seminars undertaken in the Member States during the year .



Members of the ARIPO Technical Committees at ARIPO in August 2015

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Amendment of the Harare Protocol

On this matter, the Administrative Council approved the proposed 7 amendments to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs as brought by the Technical Committee on Industrial Property. The amendments were necessitated by the need to improve and harmonize the protocol with the new automated industrial property business processing ICT system (POLite+) and with international treaties like the Paris Convention, Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Amendment of the Banjul Protocol

The Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council approved the proposed amendments to the Banjul Protocol. The amendments were compelled by the fact that the Protocol has not been performing as well as is expected. A Working Group composed of patent agents, Member States and public officials that was set up in 2013 to study the Protocol and make recommendations to make it more attractive to both users and Member States was very helpful in coming up with several amendments to align it with international trademark best practice. Based on feedback and proposals from users and Member States, the Working Group recommended 5 amendments to the Banjul Protocol to make it more user friendly. Consequently, a new Rule 5bis relating to electronic filing and general automation of business processing of trademarks was proposed and adopted. However, since Member States are at different automation levels, the ARIPO Office requested them to capacitate their Offices in preparation for the eventual progression towards total automation.

Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

The Second session of the Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights was held from August 26 to 27. The Committee reported that it had reviewed copyright and related rights activities undertaken in 2015 as well as a report on the survey carried out on the status of Collective Management Organizations in the ARIPO Member States. Further, it informed Council that it had taken note of ARIPO's proposed activities for the year 2016 with regard to copyright and related rights.

Survey on Collective Management Organizations in ARIPO Member States

The Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights informed council that ARIPO in collaboration with the Norwegian Copyright Development Association (NORCODE) conducted a survey on the status of Collective Management Organizations (CMOs) in ARIPO Member States. The survey report highlighted that there was growth in CMOs in the Member States. While others had one CMO and others did not have established CMOs, Member States like Kenya and Zimbabwe had more than one. The Technical Committee also reported that it had encouraged ARIPO in collaboration with its partners to continuously carry out studies on CMOs for the benefit of its Member States. Member States without CMOs were also urged to establish the same and those with established CMOs were urged to support those CMOs. The Council adopted the report and its recommendations.

ARIPO Strategic Plan and Proposed Organizational Structure for the Period 2016-2020

A consultant from Deloitte Consultancy Services (Private) Limited, presented the Draft ARIPO Strategic Plan and the Proposed Organizational Structure highlighting that the Value and Growth Transformation Strategic Framework is a well-constructed and sustainable strategic and transformational change management approach, which will, over the course of the five year period 2016-2020, change the face of the Organization with regard to performance and culture. ARIPO would be far more successful, if it implemented a value based framework that is more cost effective and has a greater impact on Organizational growth, efficiency and effectiveness.

The draft strategic plan further sets out ten programmes from six goals and will seek to achieve many new milestones through productivity and efficiency improvements across the entire Organization especially in intellectual property registrations, operations and education process, while continuously seeking new ways to improve and grow the support services.

The Administrative Council approved the proposed strategic plan, which is called "2016-2020 Value and Growth

Strategic Plan” and the proposed Organizational Structure for implementation in the year 2016. The Administrative Council directed that the Director General in consultation with the Staff Affairs Committee should come up with an appropriately populated structure to ensure the effective implementation of the draft Strategic Plan starting January 2016. To show the urgency with which the plan had to be implemented, the Administrative Council granted full powers to the Staff Affairs Committee to consider and approve the Director General's proposals for job mapping and the placement of staff on the new Organizational Structure subject to final approval by the Chairman of the Administrative Council.

The new structure is expected to ensure that core functions of the Organization are strengthened to enhance the efficiency of the Organization's corporate management services functions. It is envisaged to support and nurture the Organizational growth and development vision as contained in the 2016-2020 Value and Growth Strategic Plan.



Mr. Garth Bell of Deloitte Consultancy Services taking ARIPO staff through the Value & Growth Transformation Strategic Framework

Special Projects Committee

The Special Projects Committee held its 2nd Session on October 20. This committee was created to oversee construction work on the expansion of the ARIPO headquarters. The committee informed Council that it had assessed the progress on the ground on the extension of the ARIPO headquarters building. The work commenced on May 18 and is expected to be completed by May 31, 2016. To ensure the timely completion of the work, the Administrative council approved proposed funding options put before it by the committee to cater for cost of computer networking and installations, fittings, air-conditioning and ventilation as well as other accessories.

Reconstitution of Sub-Committees of the Administrative Council

The Thirty-ninth Session also reconstituted itself and its sub-committees as follows:

Administrative Council (2016-2017) - Zambia (Chairman), Liberia (Vice-Chairman) and São Tomé and Príncipe (Second Vice-Chairman);

Finance Committee (2016-2017) - Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Sudan, and Zimbabwe (ex-officio);

Audit Committee (2015-2016) - Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda and Zambia;

Staff Affairs Committee (2016-2017) - Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe (ex-officio);

Board of Appeal (2016-2017) - Botswana, The Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe (ex-officio);

Technical Committee on Industrial Property (2015-2016) - Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe;

Technical Committee on Plant Variety Protection (2015-2016) - Ghana, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

Technical Committee on Copyright (2016-2017) - Botswana, The Gambia, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe; and

Special Projects Committee (since 2014) - Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Introduction

The Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers of ARIPO was held in Lusaka, the Republic of Zambia from November 19 to 20, 2015. Eighteen Member States of the Organization were represented at the Session, namely; Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Inter-governmental organizations and co-operating partners who were represented were; WIPO, EPO, OAPI, UPOV, IFRRO, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Korea Institute of Patent Information (KIPI). The Guest of Honour, Her Excellency Mrs. Inonge Wina, MP, the Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia officially opened the Council of Ministers on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, the President of the Republic of Zambia.

Election of Officers of Council of Ministers

Zambia was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Liberia and Sudan were elected as the first Vice-Chairman and second Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers respectively, for a period of two years (2016-2017).

The Officers of the Council of Ministers for the period 2016-2017 are: Chairman - Zambia, First Vice-Chairman - Liberia and Second Vice-Chairman - Sudan.

Report of the Chairman of the Administrative Council

The Chairman of the Administrative Council presented a summary of the deliberations and resolutions of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council.

The report informed the Council of Ministers about the election of Officers of the Administrative Council and the

sub-committees for the period 2016-2017.

The Ministers were apprised of the documents that were reviewed by the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council. The summary expressed the Administrative Council's satisfaction with the progress on the construction of the extension of the ARIPO headquarters building.

Further, it highlighted that the Administrative Council was also satisfied with the KOICA-WIPO-ARIPO Regional ICT Project for the Upgrade of the ICT Infrastructure of the ARIPO Office and those of its Member States that was inaugurated on April 24, 2015.

In addition, the report informed the Ministers that the Administrative Council had approved the uploading of ARIPO Trademark bibliographical data using the Office for the Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM) onto the ARIPO Regional TMview Module which will facilitate easier business processes in the ARIPO Member States.

The Council of Ministers also heard that the Administrative Council had approved the 2016-2020 Value and Growth Strategic Plan and had also approved the Organizational Structure for implementation in 2016 as well as the programme of activities and budget for the year 2016.



Mr. S.K. Noe, Project Coordinator from the Republic of Korea demonstrates the functionalities of the POLite+ system at its inauguration ceremony

The Director General's Report

The Director General presented his report on the activities undertaken in 2014 and 2015 under the Consolidated Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 to the Council of Ministers pursuant to Article VIbis 3(a) of the Agreement on the Creation of ARIPO (The Lusaka Agreement).

The Director General reported on the achievements made by the Organization in 2014 and 2015 that included the joining by São Tomé & Príncipe of ARIPO, the entry into force on May 11 of the Swakopmund Protocol for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore; the adoption by the Diplomatic Conference in Arusha, Tanzania on July 6, of the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. The report further highlighted progress on the project to construct the extension of the ARIPO headquarters which started in May 2015 and is envisaged to be completed by 31 May 2016.

A major highlight which the Director General informed council about was the successful conclusion of the ARIPO/WIPO/KOICA Project to Upgrade and Modernize the ARIPO ICT Infrastructure and the Member States which was funded and implemented with assistance of KOICA and WIPO. It also briefed the Ministers on capacity building and awareness initiatives carried out.

The Director General's report further mentioned the various MoUs which were signed between ARIPO and various partners in 2014 and 2015. These include MOUs with the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM), IP Australia, the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI Mexico), State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) of the Republic of China; and Norwegian Copyright Development Association (NORCODE). In 2015, four more agreements were signed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China.

The Director General also advised the Council of Ministers that the governing bodies of the Organization were further boosted with the establishment of three new committees namely; Technical Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, Special Projects Committee and the Audit Committee.

Report on Regional ICT Projects for IP Business Processing

The secretariat informed the Ministers on the initiatives that the Organization is undertaking to utilize ICT to automate IP processes and provide e-services that have enabled online filing of applications and facilitating electronic payments.

The secretariat gave an update on the ARIPO-WIPO Digitization Project that WIPO has agreed to fund and which will involve the digitization of ARIPO's IP physical files lodged before the launch of the POLite+ system. The project will commence in the first quarter of 2016 and end in the third quarter.

The Ministers were also informed that the Secretariat had embarked on the development of a Traditional Knowledge Database in order to operationalise the Swakopmund Protocol that entered into force on May 11, 2015.

Status of the Construction of the Extension of the ARIPO Headquarters Building

The Council of Ministers was informed about the creation of a Special Projects Committee by the Administrative Council with authority to take decisions on funding of the construction of the extension of the headquarters building on its behalf. The committee comprises of Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project commenced on May 18, 2015 and is expected to be completed on May 31, 2016.



Construction work on the headquarters extension in progress

The Special Projects Committee of the Administrative Council held its second Session at the ARIPO headquarters on October 20, 2015 to consider the progress made to date on the project. The committee then embarked on a tour of the construction site in the company of the

contractors. The inauguration of the extension to the ARIPO headquarters building is scheduled to coincide with the 40 years anniversary of ARIPO, which will be held on December 9, 2016.



Construction work on the headquarters extension in progress

Adoption of the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

A report on the adoption of the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants at a Diplomatic Conference that was held in Arusha the United Republic of Tanzania on July 6, 2015 was presented to the Ministers. It informed the Ministers that, five Member States, namely; The Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and the United Republic of Tanzania had signed the Protocol by the time of the Council of Ministers Session. Member States were urged to take the necessary steps towards ratifying or acceding to the Protocol to allow for the registration of new varieties of plants, which will contribute to agricultural sustainability and growth.

Report on the Implementation of the Five-Year Development Plan (2011-2015) of the ARIPO Academy

An overview of the activities undertaken by the ARIPO Academy including capacity building, the Masters in Intellectual Property degree programme, infrastructure development for the Academy and the strengthening of relationships with existing partners and the establishment of new partnerships with other Universities was contained in a report on the matter. The Director General indicated that IP education should be introduced at all levels of education from primary school so that students become

creative and innovative at a young age. This will in a way contribute to the development of a culture of innovation and creativity.

Recent Developments in Intellectual Property in Africa

The Director General informed the Council of Ministers of a meeting of the Chairmen of Council of Ministers of ARIPO and OAPI which was held to deliberate on the issue of the Pan-African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO). A Draft Declaration, which came out of the Chairmen's meeting, was presented to the Fifteenth Session of the Council of Ministers of ARIPO. The Council of Ministers of ARIPO unanimously adopted the Draft Declaration.

In the Declaration, the Council of Ministers of ARIPO strongly recommended that the setting up of PAIPO must ensure that the latter will co-exist with ARIPO and OAPI and capitalize on their remarkable achievements and complement the work of these two regional intellectual property organizations.

The Declaration also emphasized that the ministers responsible for Intellectual Property in the African Union Member States should lead the implementation of the decision of the Heads of State and Government on the creation of PAIPO with a focus on policy and providing strategic direction in the development of the intellectual property system in Africa.

Report on Copyright and Related Rights

A report on the main activities relating to Copyright and Related Rights undertaken during the 2014-2015 biennium was presented to the Council of Ministers. The report highlighted various activities undertaken relating to the development of creative industries which contribute to over 5% of the respective Member States' Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

These activities include awareness drives through roving

seminars, capacity building in copyright and related rights, development of guidelines for the domestication of the Marrakesh Treaty, participation by ARIPO in copyright activities and initiatives of cooperating partners.

The draft Copyright Awareness Raising Guide adopted by the Thirty-eighth Session of the Administrative Council held in Victoria Falls, the Republic of Zimbabwe from November 17 to 21 has been finalized. The Guide includes success stories on awareness initiatives provided by Botswana, The Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

THE NEW ARIPO LOGO



The new ARIPO Logo which was adopted by the Thirty-ninth session of the Administrative Council

Introduction

ARIPO is seeking to reposition itself and enhance its image through branding. Changing the logo is one of the ways to attain this objective. The current logo was adopted at a time that ARIPO had only a mandate on Industrial Property. ARIPO now has mandates in many other domains, like Copyright and Related Rights, Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore and on Protection of New Varieties of Plants. This compelled the need to have a logo with a futuristic meaning and accommodative to these and other emerging areas of intellectual property.

With a large population of Africa aged under 21 years in this era of technologically induced opportunities, there is a huge potential for an inventive and innovative culture emerging. As the world has become a single economic village, ARIPO seeks to appeal more to the future, leading the way and contributing to the emergence of a new African economic order. The logo is intended to be the "face" of the Organization and a visual representation of the brand that our customers, partners and stakeholders are able to proudly identify with.

In light of this, a new logo to replace the one which was no longer reflective of the current mandates of the Organization was presented to the Thirty-ninth Session of the Administrative Council. The presentation was accompanied by a comprehensive rationale explaining the meanings of the colours and the designs incorporated into the logo.

The Logo Explained

The logo thus:

- Reflects organized information through connection and separation;
- Symbolizes different ideas;
- Creates movement, texture, and depth;
- Conveys mood and emotion;
- Emphasizes and creates entry points and areas of interest;
- Leads the eye from one design element to the next; and
- Reflects technological enhancement of modern identity.

Goals

The ultimate goal is to make the target audience identify with the organisation or identify the organisation with the logo. The purpose of the new logo design process was to create a new symbol that embodies the new ARIPO, the ARIPO that is focused on becoming the intellectual hub for Africa and beyond. It seeks to embody the new ARIPO vision, mission and values.

It represents an ARIPO that stands for the recognition of technology and seeks to serve as the gateway to possibilities in Africa. The logo speaks to the idea that ARIPO celebrates the unique heritage of Africa.

Symbolism

The logo symbolizes the approach to intellectual property rights that ARIPO seeks to represent. The spirals decorate the logo around the African map representing the notion of leading from outward perception to the inner essence. The inward movements are drawing concentration towards the hub while the outward spiralling, represents the rebirth, growth and consciousness of nature beginning from the core (hub) or center to the world.

This logo was inspired by a zebra's stripes, unique to each individual much like an idea, patents, copyright, new plant varieties, etc. are unique, the stripes are representing the mandates of the Organization. More the reason why it was used on the main feature, which is the African map. The map is also used to create the hub (shelter, central place of welcoming, protective) that embraces IP. As a whole, it stimulates creativity and intuition, transforming people's thinking and beliefs into new insights, innovation and pioneering.

The symbolic meaning is:

- Evolution and holistic growth
- Letting go, surrender, release
- Connectivity and unison
- Revolutions of time and the way of natural progress.

The logo development process involved a close understanding of the needs of IP in the 21st century and the functions of ARIPO as a regional organization that works hand in hand with other major international organisations and diplomatic entities. A development of mock up based on identification of key themes: bridging the gap to opportunities, gateway to Africa, bringing Africa to the world, innovation as a means for progress, protecting

the resources of the continent etc., also became part of the process. More importantly, reviewing and a refinement of ideas to better align with the vision, mission and values of a modern ARIPO.



Style

The style of the logo is in this format because ARIPO is concerned with reaching out to the world. So, while the logo exudes a clean and orderly look for office use, it also somewhat carries a distressed look for outside purposes. The acronym (ARIPO) is a visual stand-in for each and every user as they explore the virtual ARIPO. The logo can sometimes work without the acronym especially on cars, badges etc. The style stimulates creativity and intuition, transforming people's thinking and beliefs into new insights, innovation and pioneering.

It is a symbol of perfect aspiration towards development of intellect and purification of thought that should be recognized worldwide.



The swirls or spirals (curving lines) around the map infer to continuity of IP development in Africa and are indicative of the fluidity and dynamism of thought and innovation

inherent in the inhabitants. It also reflects a continuation of opportunities, symbolizes perfect aspiration towards development of intellect and purification of thought that should be recognized worldwide. The spiral is a shape found in art, science and nature dating back many centuries, representing progress, direction, centering, expansion, balance, initiation, development, journeying, awareness and connection. The way the spirals embrace Africa, suggests communality, integrity and perfection. They work well to attract attention, provide emphasis and set things apart.

Colours

The colour resolutions resonates to the 'New Age' way of thinking, conveying integrity and deep sincerity. The colours of the logo present a professional appeal with the dark blue colour representing depth in intelligence, and the moderate cyan (lighter blue on the map) representing self-reliance, reliability, dependability, loyalty, stability, vitality, restoration and wealth. And the very dark greyish colour represents neutrality, compromise, control and contrast, it is impartial and dispassionate. It has a steadying effect on other colours around it. Blue is the most universally favoured colour of all and therefore the safest to use. It relates to trust, honesty and dependability, therefore helping to build customer loyalty.

Blue is sincere, reserved and quiet, and doesn't like to make a fuss or draw attention. It hates confrontation, and likes to do things in its own way. From a colour psychology perspective, blue is reliable and responsible. This colour is important for the organisation as custodians of IP as it exhibits an inner security and confidence. You can rely on it to take control and do the right thing in difficult times. It has a need for order and direction in its life, including its living and work spaces.

The Organisational traits of the colours used indicate;

- Authority
- Reliability, responsibility
- Idealistic, integrity
- Perseverance
- Orderly

Typography

The bold typography (Times New Roman – ARIPO) gives fluidity in the design feature. It is a bold statement which symbolizes the contemporary approach to intellectual property rights ARIPO seeks to represent as an organization. The typography has been selected to

be simple and therefore not compete with the icon. The font used demonstrated an element of appropriateness, simplicity and legibility. Times New Roman lends itself for body text in any publication that needs to have a classic yet practical look, combining excellent legibility with good economy.

ARIPO

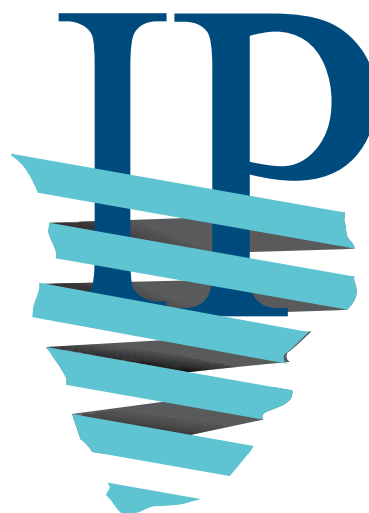
African Regional Intellectual Property Organization is in century gothic, which is simple and clean.

African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

The HUB

Circular shapes have no beginning or end. They represent the eternal whole and they suggest well-roundedness and completeness. Shading can enhance a sense of warmth, comforting, give a sense of sensuality and love. Their completeness suggests the infinite, unity, and harmony, such that in the logo the hub which was done in a circular shape reflects protection, endurance, and restriction (confining what's within). The holding of IP in the hub reflects its ability to offer safety and connection to the whole of Africa.

In general, a hub is the central part of a wheel where the spokes come together. Like the hub of a wheel, the hub on the logo works to strengthen and works as a place of convergence of IP in Africa.



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND EXTERNAL MISSIONS

Article VI of the Lusaka Agreement mandates the Organization to “co-operate with governments of States not members of the Organization and with organizations, institutions and bodies, which are desirous of assisting the Organization or its members in achieving the objectives of

the Organization”.

In pursuance of this, during the year 2015, the following activities were undertaken with strategic partners.

Visit by a delegation from the European Patent Office (EPO)

A delegation from the European Patent Office (EPO) comprised of two high-level officers of the International Co-operation Division, arrived at the ARIPO headquarters on August 26. The purpose of the visit was for the EPO to find ways to strengthen relations with ARIPO under

the auspices of the 2007 MoU on Bi-lateral Co-operation between the EPO and ARIPO. The two parties held open discussions on how to revive and strengthen cooperation under the MoU.



The EPO delegation with the Director General of ARIPO and the Director of IP at ARIPO headquarters

Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA)

A seven member delegation from the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) visited ARIPO on September 10. The JIPA delegation's objective for the visit was to get an insight into the operations of the ARIPO system and other

related issues to do with the African IP landscape in general. The Japanese delegation welcomed the opportunity to meet with ARIPO and be able to get answers to their questions and clarifications on some areas of concern.



The JIPA delegation in a meeting with ARIPO Management

ARIPO/The Space essay and painting competition



One of the participants in the competition explains his artwork to the Director of IP at ARIPO, Mr. Christopher Kiige (with glasses) and an official from the Embassy of Malawi

TheSpace in partnership with ARIPO commissioned an essay and painting competition under the theme 'Humanity without Innovation and Creativity' with the aim of building and raising awareness in Zimbabwe among young people on issues of intellectual property rights.

On September 25, the two partners organized a ceremony to present the ARIPO Award to the winners of the competition in Harare. The awards were given to nine young people, three from each of the following categories: (a) In-school Essays/Painting; (b) Out-of-school Essays/Painting; (c) Tertiary-level Essays/ Painting.

20th anniversary celebrations for the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)

The Director General of ARIPO attended on October 01, a Seminar celebrating the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)'s 20 years (1995 - 2015) in Angers, France. The

Director General also visited CPVO headquarters in Angers and GEVES, the French Group for the study and evaluation of varieties and seeds.

Visit by a high level delegation from the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)

On June 22, a high level delegation from the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China led by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Gan Shaoning visited ARIPO for a bilateral meeting that culminated in the signing of a Plan of Action for the Bi-lateral Cooperation for the period 2015 - 2016.

The two parties agreed to strengthen high-level exchange visits between them in order to keep abreast of

developments in either office.

This would also include exchange of experiences in the development of traditional knowledge protection systems as well as in patent administration and utilization. On capacity building activities, the two offices also agreed in the Plan of Action, to have some officials from ARIPO undertake training at SIPO.



The SIPO delegation that visited ARIPO in August

High Level Forum on the Upgrade and Modernization of ICT Infrastructure of ARIPO and its Member States

From May 31 to June 6, a high-level delegation comprised of senior officers from the ARIPO secretariat and the Member States visited Seoul, South Korea for an invitational high level forum hosted by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at their offices. The Forum followed the successful completion and launch of the first phase of

the Project for the Upgrade and Modernization of the ICT Infrastructure of ARIPO and that of its Member States. This initial phase saw ARIPO migrating to a modern ICT system, which allows for e-filing, e-payment and other online services.

The African Business Awards and the African Leadership Forum 2015

The African Business Awards event was held on September 23, while the African Leadership Forum 2015 was held on September 24 in New York City, United States of America. The Director General of ARIPO attended the meeting and chaired the panel on “Leadership in science and technology”.

The African Business Awards and the African Leadership Forum events were organized by IC Publications, publisher of the African Business Magazine, the bestselling pan-African business magazine.

3rd Adams & Adams Annual Meeting

The 3rd Adams & Adams Annual Meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa from September 17 to 18, 2015 and was attended by approximately 60 professionals from around the continent. Representatives of ARIPO, the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO), Industrial Property Institute (Mozambique) and the Companies and

Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO) of South Africa also attended. The meeting requested updates from the representatives of the intellectual property offices present on the latest developments in their respective organizations. The Director General of ARIPO gave the update on behalf of the Organization.

The 137th Annual Meeting of INTA

The 137th Annual Meeting of INTA took place in San Diego, United States of America from 2 to 6 May. The INTA’s Annual Meeting gathered approximately ten thousand IP practitioners and users from more than 140 countries. The Director General and two ARIPO officers attended the meeting. Once again ARIPO secured a booth at the exhibition that runs concurrently with the meetings. More than 500 participants visited the ARIPO booth to enquire more on the operations of ARIPO.

and more importantly, several one on one meetings with IP owners, corporate trademark attorneys and IP firms. The Director General, also participated as panelist in the session called “Regional Update: Africa—The Implementation of International IP Treaties in Africa” and other relevant panel discussions.

During the course of the INTA annual meeting, the Director General of ARIPO also conducted meetings namely with INTA leadership, the Africa TMO Relations Sub-committee,

The 138th Annual Meeting of INTA will take place in Orlando, United States of America from May 22 to 26, 2016. Considering the active role played by ARIPO in these meetings and the fruitful engagements the INTA meetings present, ARIPO’s participation will continue to be pursued permanently.



The Director General in a meeting with CIPLA officials during the 137th Annual INTA meeting



Left picture: The Director General in a meeting with the CEO of INTA, Mr. Etienne Sanz de Acedo (extreme left) and his officials; and Right, in a press interview with Managing IP Magazine at the ARIPO booth in San Diego

109th ASIL Annual Meeting

The 109th American Society of International Law (ASIL) Annual Meeting was held in Washington DC, United States of America from April 08 to 11 .

The meeting was attended by approximately one thousand participants and the Director General of ARIPO addressed

the participants in the panel dedicated to the topic “Intellectual Property Rights, climate change technology and sustainable development: Regimes in coherence, conflict or cooperation?” delivering a paper on “Patents and Access to Climate Change Technology - African Perspectives”.

The World IP Forum

The World IP Forum was held in New Delhi, India from January 10 to 12. The event was organized by Intellectual Professionals LLP, an Indian consultancy firm.

The Forum was attended by approximately 100 participants

from different countries. The Director General of ARIPO addressed the participants and delivered a paper entitled “The role of the regional organizations on the development of the IP System in Africa.”

The 7th Global IP Convention

The Global IP Convention was held in Mumbai, India from January 15 to 17, 2015. The event was organized by ITAG Business Solutions, an Indian IP consultancy firm.

The event was attended by more than 200 participants from around the World. The Director General of ARIPO attended the meeting and delivered a paper on, “Bridging regional economic blocs in Africa through IP: the role of ARIPO”.



The Director General addressing the 7th Global IP Convention in Mumbai, India

OTHER STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS AND MEETINGS

Meetings at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The Director General and the Director-Industrial Property attended the 55th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the member states of WIPO that took place in Geneva from October 5 to 14. During the year other ARIPO officials attended technical meetings at the headquarters of the organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Below are the meetings attended;

- a. The WIPO Expert Forum on International Technology Transfer, February 16 to 18;
- b. Seminar on Intellectual Property and Genetic

- Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions: Regional, National and Local Experiences, March 30 to April 1;
- c. 15th Session of the WIPO Development Agenda, April 20 to 23;
- d. WIPO 33rd Session IPC Meeting, May 26 to 29;
- e. PCT Working Group Meeting, May 26 to 29;
- f. WIPO Twenty-second Session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), July 27 to 31.

Meetings at the Office for the Harmonization of Internal Market (OHIM)

In the spirit of the cooperation agreement that is in force between ARIPO and OHIM, some ARIPO officials benefitted from training activities, which were organized by the latter at its headquarters in Alicante, Spain. These included;

- a. The OHIM IP Seminar from June 17 to 19;
- b. IP Executive Week from July 20 to 24;
- c. IP Seminar on Trademarks-Intermediate Level from September 7 to 9.

Conferences, Forums, Seminars and Workshops

ARIPO participated in relevant international IP Meetings debating topical African and global IP issues. ARIPO officials attended the following events:

- a. WIPO Inter-regional workshop for heads of copyright offices on copyright capacity building, February 3 to 5, Seoul, Korea;
- b. Regional access to seeds index for East Africa: expert review committee (ERC), February 3 to 19, Nairobi, Kenya;
- c. 15th Annual Congress of the African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA 2015), March 2 to 5, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe;
- d. 10th COMESA business dialogue, March 25 to 26, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- e. Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) seminar, April 21 to 23, Maputo, Mozambique;
- f. Inter-regional expert meeting on south-south and triangular cooperation for access to information and knowledge, innovation support & technology transfer, May 5 to 6, Lima, Peru;

- g. KOICA working level training, May 4 to 16, Seoul, Korea;
- h. Stakeholder workshop on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the high level panel on illicit financial flows from Africa, June 4 to 6, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- i. National stakeholder's workshop on the interface between intellectual property and access and benefit sharing arising from the use of genetic resources, July 1, Windhoek, Namibia;
- j. WIPO practical workshop on IP, GRs, TK and TCEs, August 1, Windhoek, Namibia;
- k. 81st IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2015: Dynamic libraries: access, development and transformation, August 15 to 21, Cape Town, South Africa
- l. National forum on the protection and promotion of copyright and related rights in the digital era, August 19, Accra, Ghana;
- m. USPTO African regional IP enforcement workshop, September 16 to 18, Accra, Ghana.

MISSIONS TO MEMBER STATES

ROVING SEMINARS

In pursuance of the ARIPO Strategic Plan approved by the Administrative Council, the ARIPO Office undertook missions to its Member States in the form of roving seminars and technical tours meant to acquaint itself with difficulties encountered by local offices in handling and processing ARIPO industrial property applications.

Since 2014, the ARIPO series of roving seminars have been the flagship program for the Office. The roving seminars were this year held in five more countries namely: Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda and Zambia directly benefitting 664 participants. With the series of the Roving Seminars conducted this year the number of countries that benefitted

from this initiative is 11, bringing the total number of participants to 1400.

The topics addressed and the number of participants were as follows:

- a. Rwanda: industrial property (70), plant variety protection (50);
- b. Kenya: industrial property (60), copyright (69);
- c. Zambia: industrial property (58), traditional knowledge and folklore (65);
- d. Lesotho: industrial property (50), copyright (43);
- e. Ghana: industrial property (93), traditional knowledge (106).



Participants in the roving seminar held in Rwanda follow proceedings



Participants in the roving seminar held in Lesotho follow proceedings

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Article VI of the Lusaka Agreement which was adopted on 9 December, 1976, on the creation of ARIPO mandates the Organization to “co-operate with Governments of States not members of the Organization and with organizations, institutions and bodies other than those referred to in Article V of this Agreement (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Co-operating States and Organizations”) which are desirous of assisting the Organization or its members in achieving the objectives of the Organization”. In furtherance of Article VI of the Lusaka Agreement four cooperation agreements were executed in the year 2015. On 5 May 2015 during the 137th INTA annual meeting in San Diego, California, ARIPO and the United States Patent and Trademark Office signed a Work Plan on Bilateral Cooperation to run from 2015–2020.

The Work Plan provides a basis for cooperative activities between the two parties on matters related to acquisition, utilization and protection of intellectual property (IP) rights. It will also seek to improve the administration of IP

protection systems and the effectiveness of legal protection through training in IPR enforcement for enforcement officials and judges. Under the Work Plan, consultation will be done on improving IP enforcement policies and practices as well as collaboration in training and capacity building programmes to improve IP examination standards at ARIPO.

Other crucial agreements entered into by ARIPO and other cooperating partners are:

1. The Joint Memorandum of Understanding for Bilateral Cooperation between ARIPO and the National Institute of Industrial Property of Brazil (INPI);
2. The Work plan on Bilateral Co-operation Between ARIPO and OAPI for 2015; and
3. The Plan of Action for the Bilateral Cooperation for the period 2015 – 2016 between ARIPO and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building initiatives provided for by ARIPO Academy are based on the “Five-year Development Plan” for the period 2011 to 2015 which was approved by the Council of Ministers at its Thirteenth Session held in Accra, Ghana in 2011.

Master of Intellectual Property (MIP)

The MIP Program jointly organized by ARIPO, WIPO and Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe is now in its 8th cohort. In total, 213 students have been trained courtesy of sponsorship by WIPO, Japan Patent Office (JPO) and ARIPO. Some students are admitted into the MIP program on self-sponsorship. A total of 45 students have been

offered scholarships by ARIPO since the inception of the program in 2008.

In 2015, 27 students of the 7th cohort graduated. Overall, 194 students (134 male, 60 female) have graduated since the beginning of the program.



A group of the 2015 MIP graduates after receiving their degree certificates in Mutare, Zimbabwe

Other capacity building initiatives hosted by ARIPO in Harare, Zimbabwe

ARIPO in collaboration with its strategic partners organized at its headquarters the following capacity building activities during the year 2015;

- a. WIPO Patent Drafting Course for Patent Agents from ARIPO Member and Observer States from 7 September to 9 October;
- b. WIPO African Sub-regional Workshop on New Perspectives on Copyright from July 20 to 21;
- c. Regional Workshop on the Use of Utility Models and Industrial Designs for Small and Medium-Sized

Enterprises (SMEs) in ARIPO Member States, from June 24 to 26;

- d. Training of Trainers Workshop on IP: Teaching of Intellectual Property in Police Academies of the ARIPO Member States from June 8 to 12;
- e. WIPO-ARIPO Sub-regional Seminar on the Promotion and the Understanding of Multilateral Treaties in the Field of Patents: Paris Convention, Budapest Treaty and Patent Law Treaty from 11 to 13 February.

HUMAN RESOURCES

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

The Thirty-ninth session of the Administrative Council reappointed Mr. Fernando dos Santos as the Director General for a second and final term of four years beginning 2017.

Three vacant positions were filled in the year 2015 to replace three officers who had resigned from the Organization in the previous year. These positions were for the Copyright Officer, which was taken up by Ms. Maureen Fondo from the United Republic of Tanzania,

the post of Systems Administrator, which was filled by Mr. Grey Njowola of Zimbabwe, both of whom who joined on June 1. The third position of the Legal Officer, was filled by Mr. Pierre Runiga, a national of Rwanda who joined the Organization on June 15. Two interns were also recruited in the fields of ICT and industrial property. The internship program provides students with an opportunity to acquire practical work experience while at the same time providing valuable human resource support for ARIPO's activities.



Mr. G. Njowola
Systems Admin



Ms. M. Fondo
Copyright Officer



Mr. P. Runiga
Legal Officer



Miss T. Samupindi
ICT Intern



Ms R. Mlambo
IP Intern



The late
Mr. Norman Chadoka

Retirement

One of the drivers proceeded on medical termination with effect from January, 31 2015 in terms of Rule 15.2.1 of the ARIPO Staff Rules and Procedures. Unfortunately he later on passed away on July, 31 2015.

Mr. Wilbrod A. Mulenga, the Senior Publications and Documentation Officer left the Organization on scheduled retirement on November, 30 2015.



Mr. Wilbrod Mulenga

Staff Development

Following the approval by the Thirty-eighth Session of the Administrative Council of the Human Resources Development Plan, the Secretariat set out to operationalize it. The plan, which focuses on five key strategies, namely; review of organizational structure and

workforce realignment and re-designation, performance management, team and innovative culture building and enhancement, enhancement of quality of service, and learning and development was implemented during the year. A total of twenty-nine (29) members of staff

including the Director General attended a Results Based Management (RBM) Preparatory Workshop whose primary objective was to introduce the RBM concept, philosophy and practice in pursuit of the development of the ARIPO 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan. The RBM framework was later substituted by the Value and Growth High Performance

Methodology. As a result, familiarization training with the new methodology was organized and professional and intermediary category staff participated. Further, twenty-three members of staff attended thirteen staff training and skills development workshops and programmes.

Staff Retreat

The year started with an all staff working retreat that was held from February 6 to 8 in Kariba, Zimbabwe. During the retreat, staff were engaged in team building exercises and brainstorming on health and well-being. The team building session was aimed at enhancing teamwork through interactive activities as well as to assess team dynamics and organizational culture in preparation for staff and management coaching. The team building sessions, which were started here continued throughout the year in different formats.



ARIPO staff members enjoying a game of volleyball in Kariba

Most Outstanding Employee Awards



Mr. Mailos Nhokwara, ARIPO Most Outstanding Employee for 2015 receives his prizes from the Director General of ARIPO

The Office introduced two categories of performance awards namely; the Most Outstanding Employee of the Month award and the Employee of the Year award, the later of which is awarded in December each year. The monthly

“Most Outstanding Employee Award” was conferred to six (6) outstanding employees from January to September 2015. The award was established to recognize, encourage and reward innovation, creative thinking and outstanding performance of employees in a manner consistent with ARIPO’s mission and goals.

The award is given to those employees who propose innovative ideas and initiatives over and above the usual expectations and responsibilities of their roles.

On December 4, ARIPO organized an end of year dinner where the Employee of the Year was honored. Mr. Mailos Nhokwara, a Reprographic Clerk at the secretariat won the employee of the year award for 2015.

Long Serving Employees Awards

On the same evening of December 4, the Organization also honoured 5 employees who had served it for various lengths of time from 10 years to 30 years.



Long service awards recipients pose for a photo with the Director General

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Work on the ARIPO Headquarters Extension

With regard to infrastructural development it is worth highlighting the commencement of the project of the construction of the extension of the ARIPO headquarters in May 2015. The project is envisaged to last 12 months and the contractor expects to handover the building in May 2016. The new building will certainly change the face of ARIPO and will accommodate more offices, conference rooms, meeting rooms and new parking bays.

The Special Projects Committee of the Administrative

Council held two meetings at the ARIPO headquarters to consider the progress being made on the project, culminating in a tour of the construction site on both occasions. These meetings and tours were done jointly with contractors made up of the project manager, architect, quantity surveyor, the structural, mechanical and electrical engineers. The inauguration of the extension to the ARIPO headquarters building is scheduled to coincide with the 40 years anniversary of ARIPO, which will be held on December 9, 2016.



May: Demolition of old structure to make way for the new building



June: Laying the foundation pillars



September: Construction begins in earnest



December: UP it goes!! The building rises

Pictures showing the progress of the construction work up to the end of the year 2015

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Modernization of the ICT System

The main highlight of the ICT developments was the successful conclusion of the ARIPO/ WIPO/KOICA Project to Upgrade and Modernize the ARIPO ICT Infrastructure and those of its Member States funded and implemented with financial and technical assistance from KOICA and WIPO. The launch of the new IP administration system, POLite+, was done on March 2, and its official inauguration on April 24. POLite+ is web-based and provides functions for online filing, online file inspection, online payment, access to online journals and forms and fee information download. With this system ARIPO became one of the few offices in Africa that provides e-filing systems.

In the long term, the project seeks to upgrade IP administration system and data communication between ARIPO Office and the Member States through the development of a Member States module. The module will facilitate online electronic data communication with the upgraded IP administration system of the ARIPO Office and access to online services by the public at large.

In addition ARIPO will embark on a project of uploading ARIPO trademark bibliographical data onto the ARIPO Regional TMview Module using the Office for the Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM). The aforementioned initiatives will facilitate easier business

processes in the ARIPO Member States.

In partnership with WIPO, ARIPO has initiated the ARIPO-WIPO Digitization Project, which will involve the digitization of ARIPO's IP physical files lodged before the launch of the POLite+ system. The project will commence in the first quarter of 2016 and ending in the third quarter. All the documents currently available only in hard copy will be digitized as ARIPO works towards a paperless office. WIPO is funding this project.

Further, WIPO has agreed to fund a project to create and implement an ARIPO Regional IP database, which will include all published IP data of the ARIPO Office and all the Member States.

Still on that, ARIPO has embarked on the development of a Traditional Knowledge (TK) Database in pursuit of the fulfilment of the Swakopmund Protocol on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Folklore that entered into force on May 11, 2015. Funding shall be sought for the project.

In addition to this, the Organization has put in place plans to develop a Copyright Regional Database with the support of the ARIPO co-operating partners.



The Director General and Senior KOICA and KIPO officials at the POLite+ system inauguration



Guest of Honour and Attorney General of the Republic of Zimbabwe Mr. Prince Machaya unveils the project plaque at ARIPO

LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND OUTREACH SERVICES

DISSEMINATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

Access to Worldwide Stock of Patent Information

The ARIPO Office has access to a considerable measure of patent documentation that contains both old and new technology disclosures. This stock is comprised of patent documents received by the office in its function as a patent office and those others in multiple millions which lay in major patent databases of leading national, regional and international patent offices (such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, European Patent Office, Japan Patent Office).

Many of these external sources of patent information are

commercial databases but several of them are made freely accessible to the ARIPO Office by courtesy of their owners. For instance, by cooperation agreements maintained with the organization, WIPO has made possible the access by the ARIPO Office to Patent Scope database.

Further databases used in the year by the Office in the dissemination of patent information were ESPACE database products by the European Patent Office either for online use or on offline use such as the CD-ROM and DVD-ROM versions.

Access to Non-Patent Information

Regarding non-patent information, WIPO furthermore gave the ARIPO Office access, on a very minimal charge, to ArDI (Access to Research for Development and Innovation) which is a service of peer reviewed journals and books on scientific and technical information, rich information for research and technological development initiatives.

Additionally, the ARIPO Office's dissemination of information and outreach was further enriched by open access to several online databases which are repositories of journal literature deposited by their various publishers. These journals, several of which were regularly consulted by researchers visiting the Anderson Ray Zikonda Library,

are the following:

- Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ),
- Accredited Open Access Journals—South Africa (AOAJSA),
- SABINET,
- SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online),
- PubMed Central,
- National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources,
- Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERii), and
- Social Science Research Network (SSRN).

Procurement of Research Literature

A total of 100 new textbooks on intellectual property were purchased from different publishing houses and an additional 30 were donated by WIPO with the view to enrich the available library collection. The new collection will render the library up to date and useful especially for

the MIP students during the residential phase in Harare. ARIPO office intends to continue refurbishing the library in order to make it a preferred reference centre for intellectual property research and teaching in the region.

ARIPO Literature

In addition to external literature, printed and otherwise, the ARIPO Office printed and published the ARIPO Journal by which the Office published patent, design and trademark information as a legal requirement according to the Harare Protocol and Banjul Protocol for grant or registration of titles and management of their miscellaneous processes. The serial was circulated to subscribers who are usually attorneys, agents, overseas correspondents, and other readers.

Further literature printed and published by the ARIPO Office were treaties concluded by the Organization's

Member States for constitution and governance of the Organization (Lusaka Agreement, Harare Protocol, Banjul Protocol, Swakopmund Protocol and the Arusha Protocol). These were complemented by various other publications on governance, such as those on rules of procedure, financial management, staff rules, and industrial property procedures, as well as informative brochures. These were made available to Member States delegations to ARIPO meetings, exhibitions held internationally (e.g. INTA) or regionally (International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys Congress (FICPI) in Cape Town) or locally as well as to participants of the national roving seminars.

EXHIBITIONS

Zimbabwe International Trade Fair 2015

One of the regular and famous outreach activities of the ARIPO Office is the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF). In 2015, the Office secured a stand at this event which was held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from 28 April to 2 May courtesy of an invitation by the Zimbabwe Government through the Office of the Comptroller of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs.

ARIPO showcased literature on the promotion of the use of the intellectual property system by Zimbabwe's industry and universities and technical colleges and research and development institutions. Business of the exhibition went well with the number of daily visitors to the stand building

up tremendously from the middle of the show days until the closing day.



Mr. Said Ramadhan (left) welcomes the Vice-President and Minister of Justice of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa (right) at the ARIPO stand at ZITF

Harare Agricultural Show 2015



Mr. Charles Pundo (seated) attends to clients at the ARIPO stand during the 2015 Harare Agricultural Show

At the Harare Agricultural Show, held in Harare (Zimbabwe) from 24 to 30 August, as well, the Office co-exhibited with ZIPO. As usual, the exhibition booth was well visited by show goers that exhibited high interest in industrial

property. It was noted that some of these had no prior knowledge on IP or on ARIPO or ZIPO.

Visitors challenged the ARIPO Office and its Member States to increase efforts at IP law enforcement to uphold IP rights against piracy and counterfeiting, which admittedly have bedevilled the economic value of those rights. CAPS Holdings of Zimbabwe was given by a visitor as an unfair victim of shameless importation by others of counterfeit drugs.

Results of the ARIPO Office's past initiatives for IP awareness in Zimbabwe were displayed at the stands of the Harare Institute of Technology, where their exhibition reflected evidence of student awareness of industrial property issues. Chinhoyi University of Technology exhibited their IP techno-park produced goods.

SMEs International Expo

The ARIPO Office attended the 5th edition of the SMEs International Expo which took place from October 21 to 24. The Office exhibited and disseminated information about its establishment and its work, specifically industrial

property operations under the Harare Protocol and the Banjul Protocol and how these can be of use to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Article VI of the ARIPO Financial Regulations highlights that ARIPO shall establish a general fund for the purpose of accounting for expenditures of the Organization. The article further highlights that the Organization can establish trust and special funds which their purpose shall be defined

by the Administrative Council. Currently, the Secretariat administers four funds, namely the ARIPO General Fund, Member States Trust Fund, Provident/Gratuities Fund and Reserve Fund.

ARIPO GENERAL FUND

The fund's main purpose is to account for the Organization's yearly revenue and expenditure as per the ARIPO Financial Regulation 6.1.

Revenue

During the 2015 financial year, the Organization had set its revenue targets from its two main sources of income, to a total amount of US\$5,5 million. Of this, US\$4,7 million was projected to be generated from its share of IP rights fees, US\$0.7 million being income from annual assessed contribution while US\$30,000 was to come from other income sources.

The total actual revenue received during the year was US\$5.4 million, being 98% of the targeted or projected revenue for the year. The actual revenue received from IP

rights fees was US\$4.2 million being 87% of the projection. 100% of the assessed contribution was realised and from other income projected, the projection was exceeded by 19%. The Organization further received a donation of US\$433 133 worth of computers from KOICA. Furthermore, to ensure fast tracking of the new headquarters construction, the Member States agreed to pay their 2016 contributions in the year 2015.

The pie chart below further gives a highlight of the ARIPO revenue streams and how much each stream generated towards the overall Organization's revenue.

Income from the Protocols remains to be the main source of revenue for the Organization as 84% of the entire Organization's revenue is generated from the IP rights.

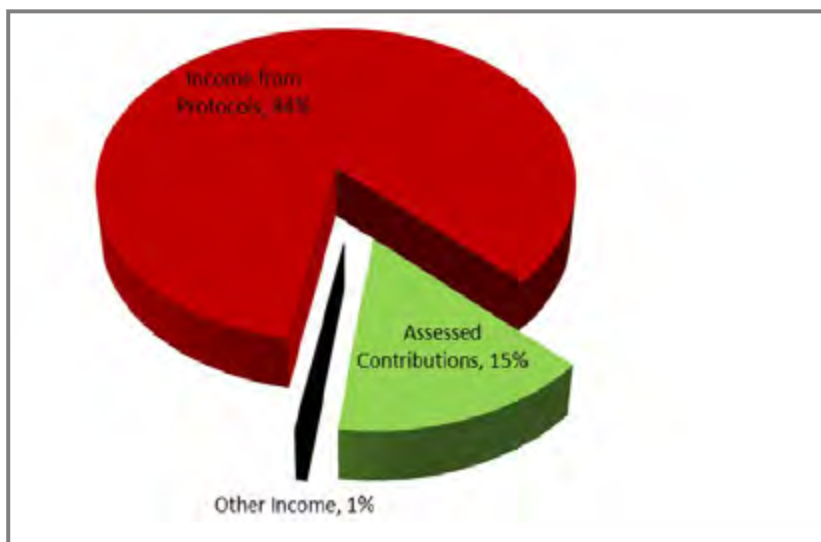


Figure 3: ARIPO's three main sources of revenue for 2015.

Expenditure

The Administrative Council approved the Organization's annual expenditure budget totalling US\$5.2 million including the fixed assets. This total is for the fifteen programmes that the Organization managed during the 2015 financial year and 98% of the budgeted expenditure including procurement of the fixed assets was spend, which is US\$5.1 million. Table 6 below gives detailed information

on how each programme performed. For those programmes that exceeded their approved allocations, the excess were funded from the other programmes which did not spend their allocations in totality, applying Regulation 4.5 of the Financial Regulations.

Figure 4 gives a highlight on the composition of the Organization's expenditure and what percentage each has on the overall expenditure for the 2015 financial year.

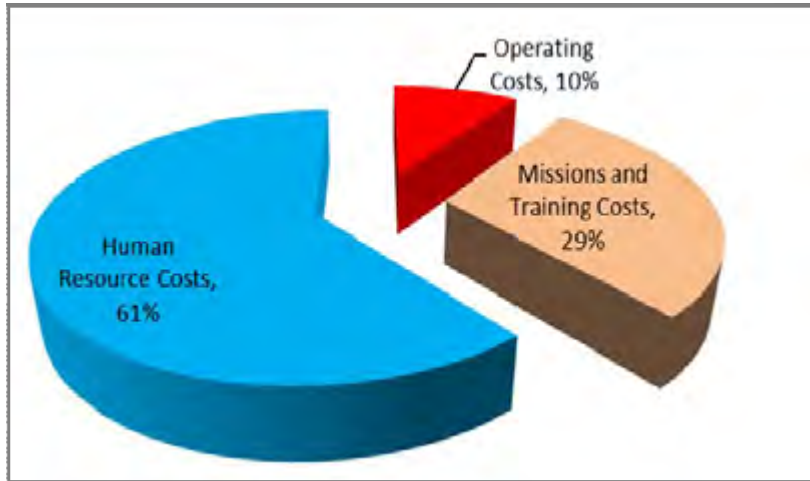
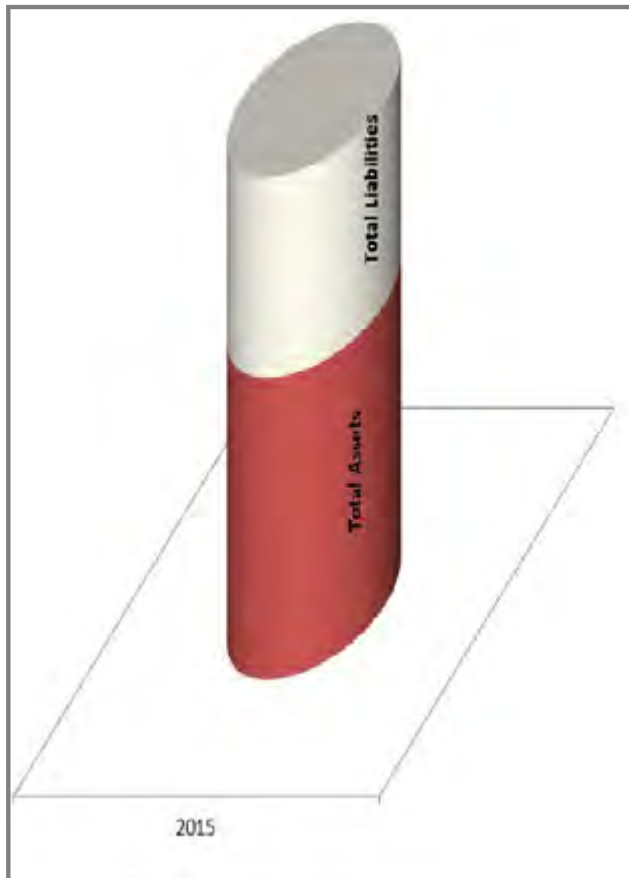


Figure 4: The three main types of ARIPO's expenditure items.



Assets

During the year 2015, the Organization's assets increased by 25%, which is from US\$5.4 million to US\$6.7 million. The main reasons are attributed to the on-going work on the extension of the headquarters building. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Korea donated to ARIPO ICT equipment for the upgrading of the ARIPO ICT system and the software thereof.

Liabilities

The Organization's total liabilities increased by 32% in 2015, which is from US\$3.5 million to US\$4.6 million. This is mainly due to fast tracking of the Member States' 2016 contributions that were paid in 2015. The payment was necessitated by the need to accelerate work on the extension of the headquarters building.

Figure 5 presents the proportion of the total Organization liabilities to the total.

Figure 5: The proportion of total liabilities to assets

MEMBER STATES TRUST FUND

The fund was established in line with the ARIPO Financial Regulation 6.5 for the purpose of all shares of fees due to the Member States be kept in the fund and are remitted to the Member States upon request.

The total share of fees due to the Member States totalled US\$5.8 million as of December 31, 2015. The trust fund closing balance as at December 31, 2015 was US\$4.2 million leaving a shortfall of US\$1.5 million which was rolled over to the 2016 financial year, furthermore a total

amount of US\$2.2 million was remitted to the respective Member States.

The Member States' share of fees are steadily increasing yearly.

The pie chart below (Figure 6) also highlights each Member State's % share from the total share of fees generated in 2015.

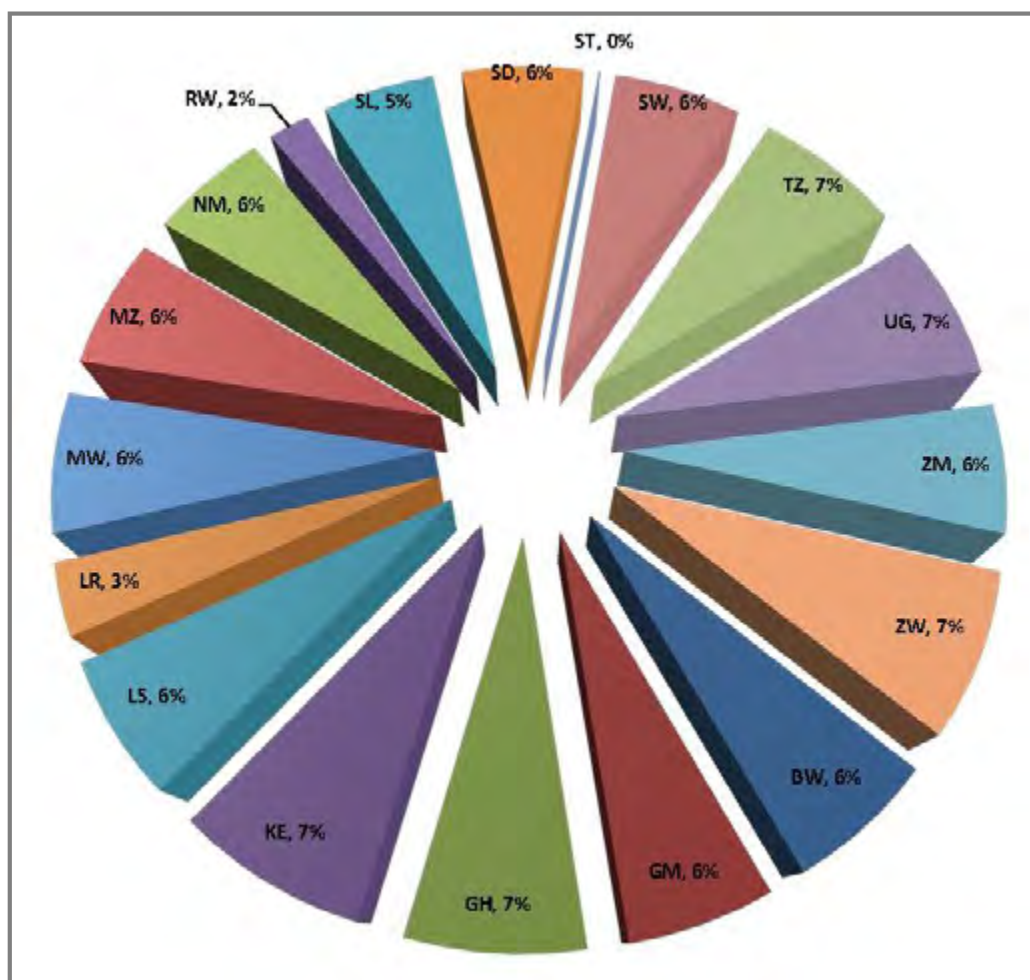


Figure 6: Member States' percentage share of fees for the year 2015.

RESERVE FUND

The Reserve Fund was established by the Council of Ministers in 1994 for purposes of infrastructural development at the Secretariat and also in line with the ARIPO Financial Regulation 6.5. The Fund is financed by both the ARIPO Member States and the ARIPO Secretariat.

During the Thirty-sixth Session of the Administrative Council, which was held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, the Secretariat presented a proposal highlighting the need for the Organization to extend the headquarters building to address the problem of shortage of offices at ARIPO—which proposal the Administrative Council approved.

The proposed building project is estimated to cost US\$3.7million. The Administrative Council at its Thirty-eighth Session advised the Organization to avoid delays in implementing the project so as to avoid the negative effects of inflation on the estimated cost of the building. As such, the Council agreed to have the Member States' 2016

annual contributions towards the fund be paid in advance in 2015.

The acceleration of payments for the 2016 Member States' annual contributions in 2015 was implemented and the total amount of US\$0.9 million was transferred to the Reserve Fund in January 2015. In addition during the course of the year an amount totaling US\$0.4 million from the ARIPO's Secretariat was also transferred to the fund.

During the same session, the Administrative Council established a Committee on Special Projects to oversee the process of the construction of the headquarters extension. The Special Projects committee made a recommendation to the Administrative Council for immediate commencement of the construction work and the Council approved the recommendation. The construction was started on May 18, 2015 and as at December 31, 2015, 37% of the estimated budget had already been invested into the construction.

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

The number of applications received by the ARIPO Secretariat were marginally lower compared to the previous year. As at December 31, 780 patents and 283 trademark applications were lodged against 835 patent and 362 trademark applications in 2014. There is a decrease of 6.6 percent in the number of patent applications lodged and 21.8 percent in the number of trademarks lodged compared

to same period of 2014. The number of industrial designs lodged is 124 in 2015, which is 20 percent lower compared to 155 received in the corresponding period of last year. However, a big change was registered in the number of utility model applications received, which rose from 10 in 2014 to 21 in 2015, translating to an increase of 110 percent.

PATENTS

Patent Applications Lodged

The ARIPO Office received 780 patent applications during 2015. As applications received in 2014 stood at 835, the new level means a decrease of 6.6% from the previous year. Figure 7 and Table 5 show the patents lodged and granted.

Patents Granted

As Figure 7 and Table 5 show, the ARIPO Office granted 429 patents in 2015 which displayed an increase of 68% from last year's level when 255 patents were granted.

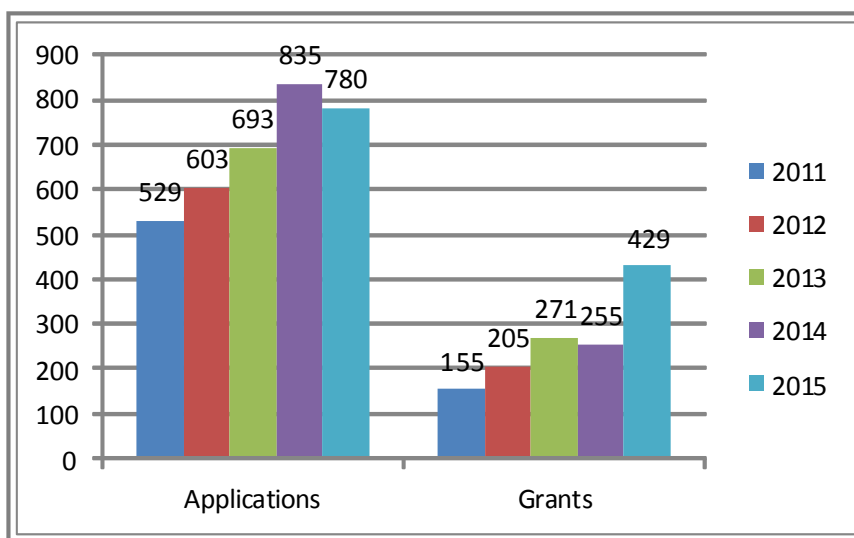


Figure 7: A column chart of patent applications lodged and patents granted from 2011 to 2015.

YEAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications	529	603	693	835	780
Grants	155	205	271	255	429

Table 5: Patent applications lodged and patents granted from 2011 to 2015.

Origin of the Applications

As has been the trend, the most applications were filed from the United States, which had 31.9 percent of the 2015 patent lodgements. In second and third places fell South Africa and Germany which filed 7.4 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively.

Behind these were applications from Japan, Great Britain

and India with 5.7, 4.4 and 4.4 percent respectively, of the year's lodgements. The ARIPO region contributed 1.2 percent and the rest of the world was responsible for filing 26.4 percent of the patent applications received in 2015.

There was notable drop in applications filed originating from China, which in 2014 contributed 13.1 percent but managed 4.2 percent of the total filings for 2015. (See Figure 8).

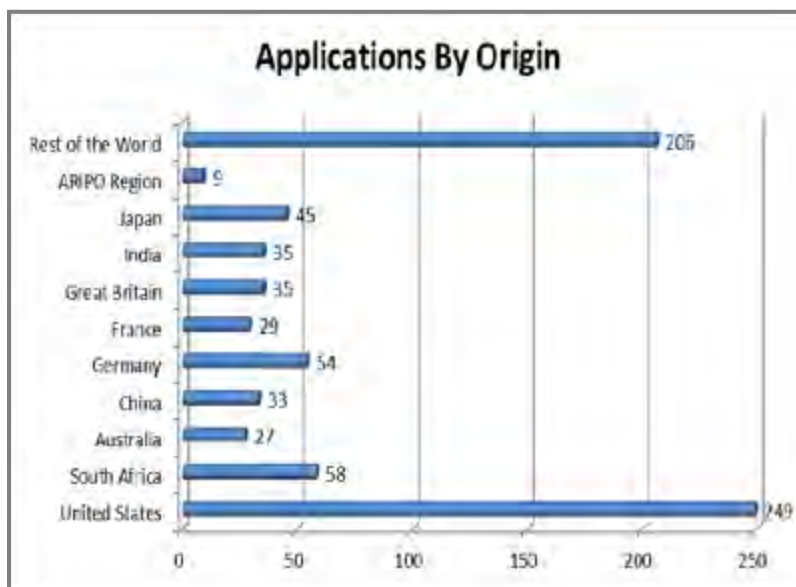


Figure 8: Origin of patent applications received by ARIPO in 2015.

Patents Applications Lodged According to IPC

The 780 patents applications received in 2015 at the

ARIPO Office were distributed among the classes of the International Patent Classification (IPC) as shown in Figure 9. In that figure, Main Group C (Chemistry and Metallurgy) received the highest percentage compared to all the other IPC groups or classes.

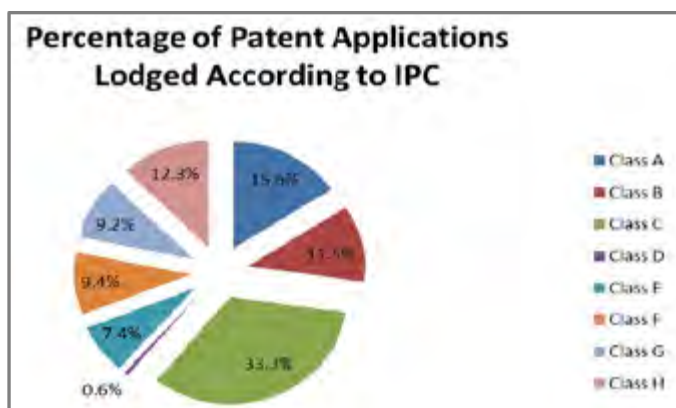


Figure 9: 2015 patent applications according to IPC. For meanings of the letters representing the IPC's main classes, see Table 6.

MAIN GROUP SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN CLASS
A	Human necessities
B	Performing operations; Transporting
C	Chemistry; Metallurgy
D	Textiles; Paper
E	Fixed constructions
F	Mechanical engineering; Lighting; Heating; Weapons; Blasting
G	Physics
H	Electricity

Table 6: Description of main group symbols of the IPC scheme.

PCT Patent Applications lodged and Granted

Of the 780 patent applications received, 739 were PCT files. These represented 94.7 percent of the total. Similarly,

of the 429 patents granted in 2015 at the ARIPO Office, 408 were PCT files, representing 95.1 percent. Figure 10 shows the PCT patent applications and grants filed and made respectively.

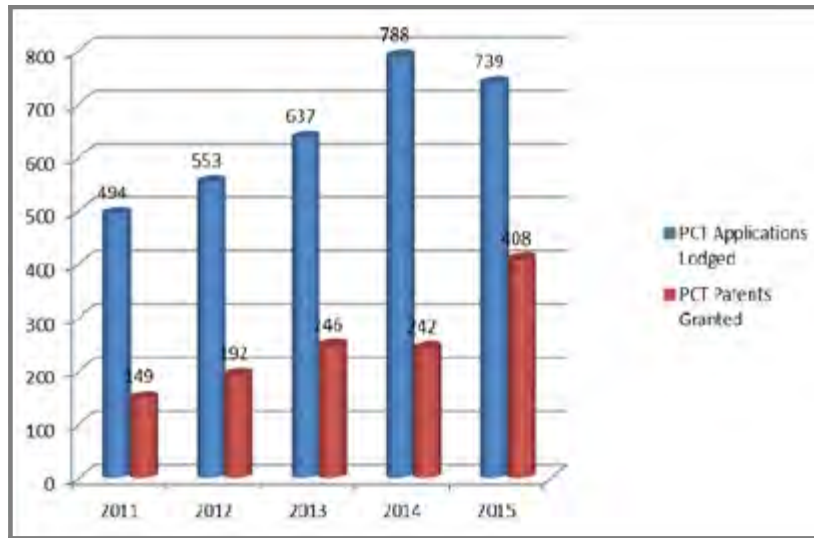


Figure 10: PCT patent applications received and grants made in 2015.

Patents Granted According to Origin

Of the 429 patents granted in 2015 at the ARIPO Office, the United States was the major single destination of those granted patents.

This was followed by South Africa, Germany and Australia to make the top four individual country destinations. Figure 11 shows the destinations of the patents granted by ARIPO in 2015.

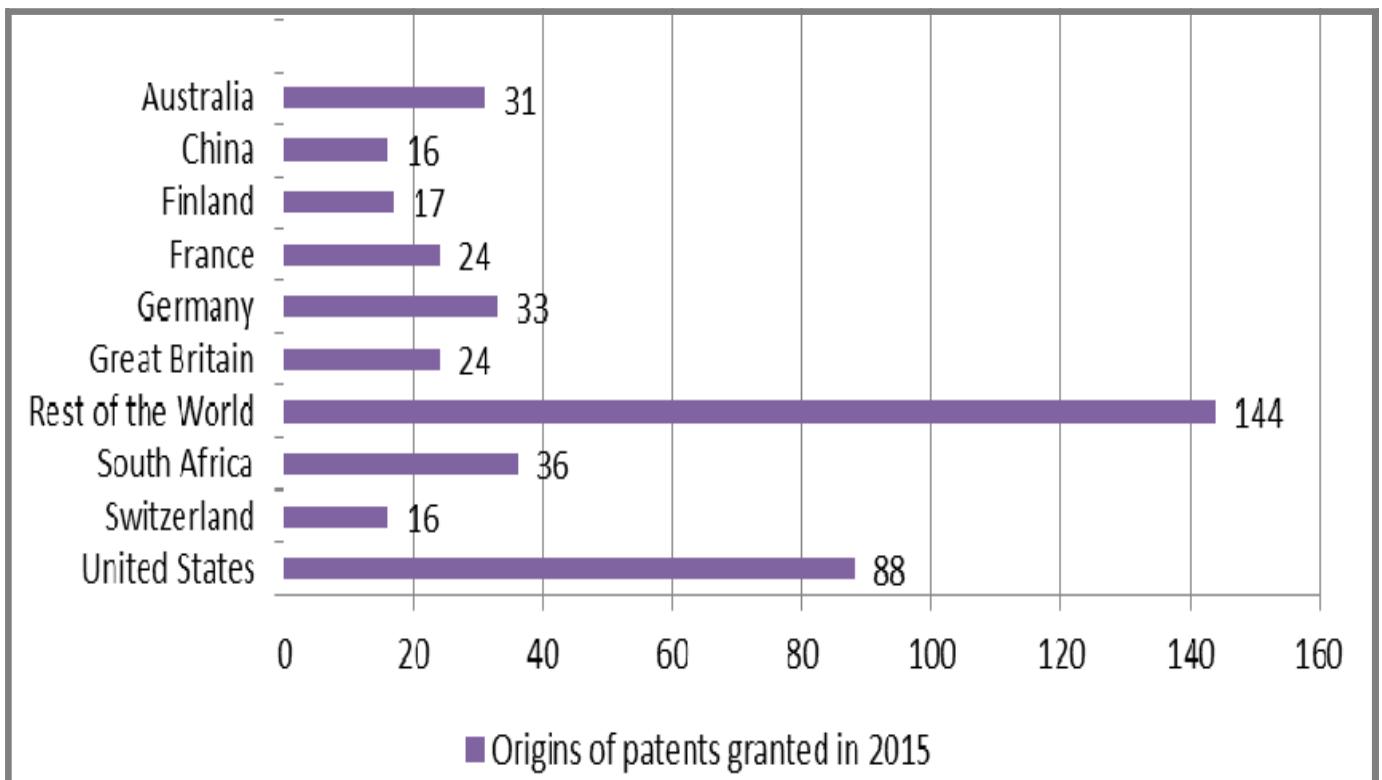


Figure 11: Origin of patents granted in 2015.

Patents Granted According to IPC

The 429 patents granted in 2015 at the ARIPO Office were distributed among the classes of the International Patent

Classification (IPC) as shown in Figure 12. In that figure, Main Group C (Chemistry and Metallurgy) received the highest number of the granted patents.

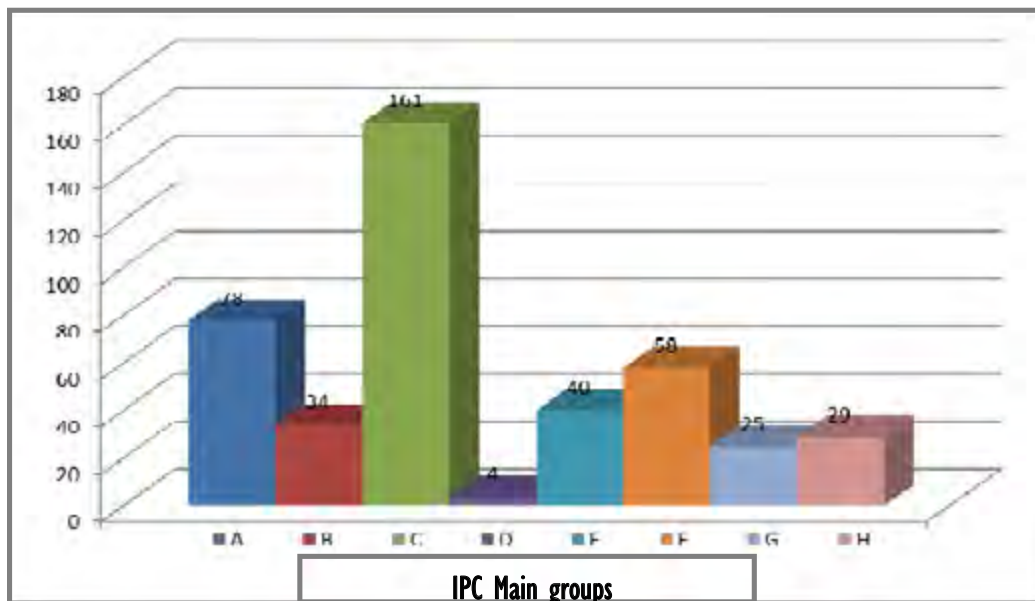


Figure 12: Structure of 2015 patent grants according to the IPC. For meanings of the letters representing the IPC's main classes, see Table 6.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

Applications Filed

In 2013 and 2014, the ARIPO Office had received 219 and 155 applications for registration of Industrial Designs

respectively. The year 2015 witnessed a continued drop in this activity as 124 were received in the year (Figure 13) thereby making a 20 percent drop.

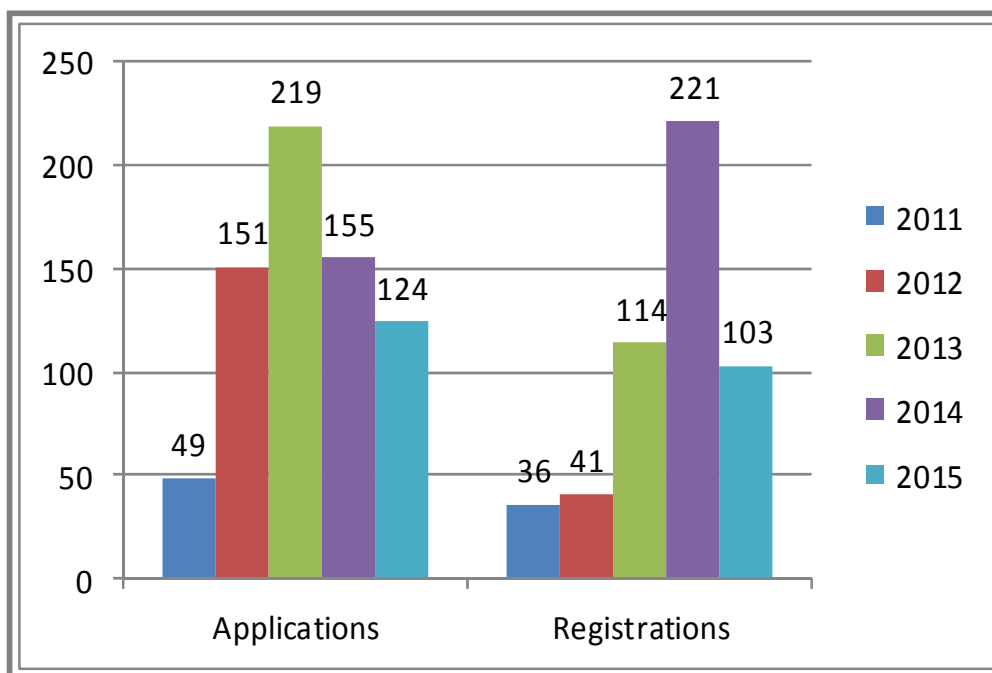


Figure 13: Design applications lodged and registrations made from 2011 to 2015.

Origin of Industrial Design Applications Filed

Of the 124 design applications received at ARIPO, the Republic of Korea, the ARIPO region and South Africa contributed, respectively, 35, 19 and 12 percent of the applications. The United Kingdom and India each filed 9 percent.

24 design applications translating to 19 percent of total applications received were from the ARIPO region. 63

percent of these were from Ghana, 17 percent from the United Republic of Tanzania, 12 percent from Zimbabwe and the remaining 8 percent was from Kenya. See Figure 14.

Industrial Designs Registered

As shown in Figure 14, the ARIPO Office registered 103 industrial designs in 2015 in comparison with 221 of the previous year, 2014. This represented a 53.4 percent decrease in registrations from 2014 registrations.

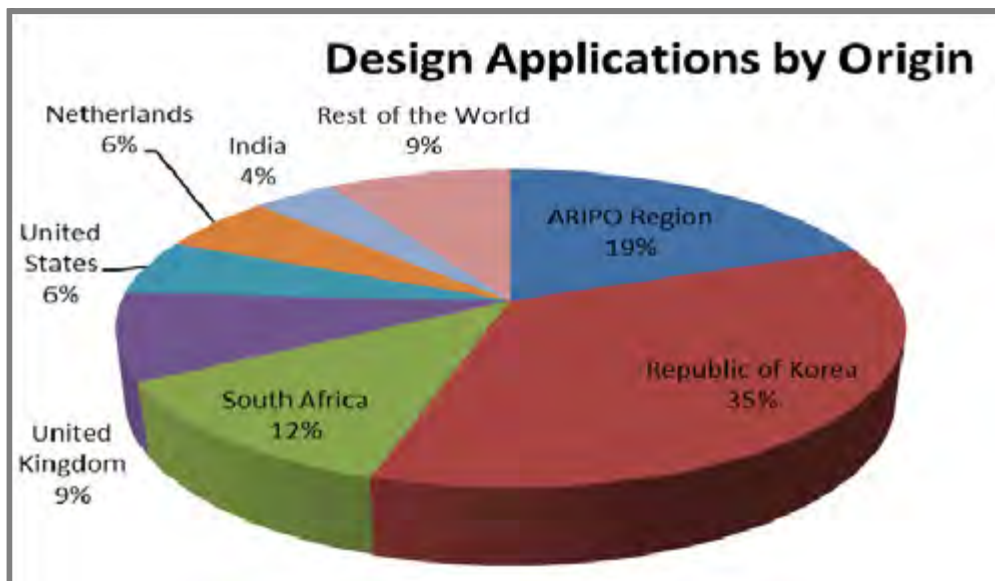


Figure 14: Origin of design applications received at ARIPO in 2015.

Registration According to Origin of Applications

The Republic of Korea was the main beneficiary of the designs registered at ARIPO in 2015 with 25 percent

followed by South Africa on 18 percent. The ARIPO region represented by the United Republic of Tanzania had 11 percent of the total registrations. See Figure 15.

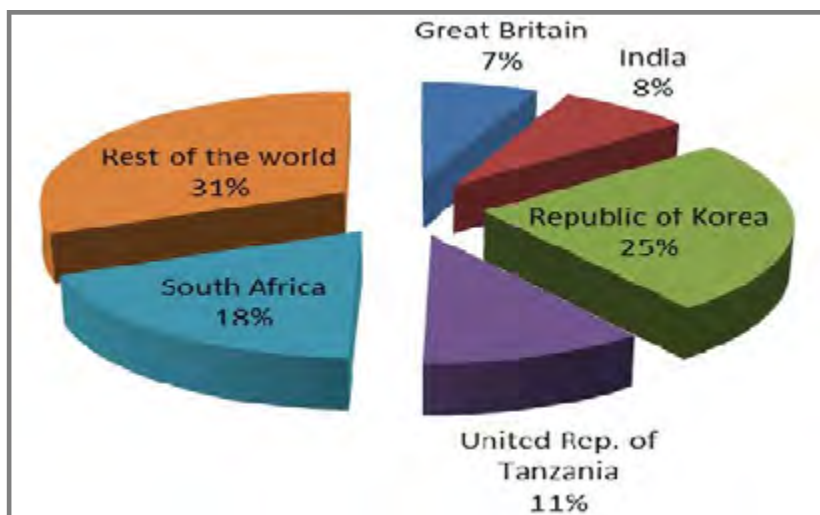


Figure 15: 2015 registered designs according to origin.

UTILITY MODELS

Applications Filed

A total of 21 Utility Model applications were received by the ARIPO Office in 2015. There was a 110% increase in

the number of applications received when compared to the previous year 2014 when 10 applications were received. See Table 7 for annual Utility Model applications and registrations for the last 5 years.

YEAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Applications Filed	3	8	7	10	21
Registrations Made	1	0	0	0	0

Table 7: Utility Model applications and registrations made from 2011 to 2015.

Origin of Utility Model Applications Filed

Of the 21 Utility Model applications filed at the ARIPO

Office in 2015, 17 were from Zimbabwe, 2 from Sweden and 1 each from Kenya and Luxembourg. See Figure 16.

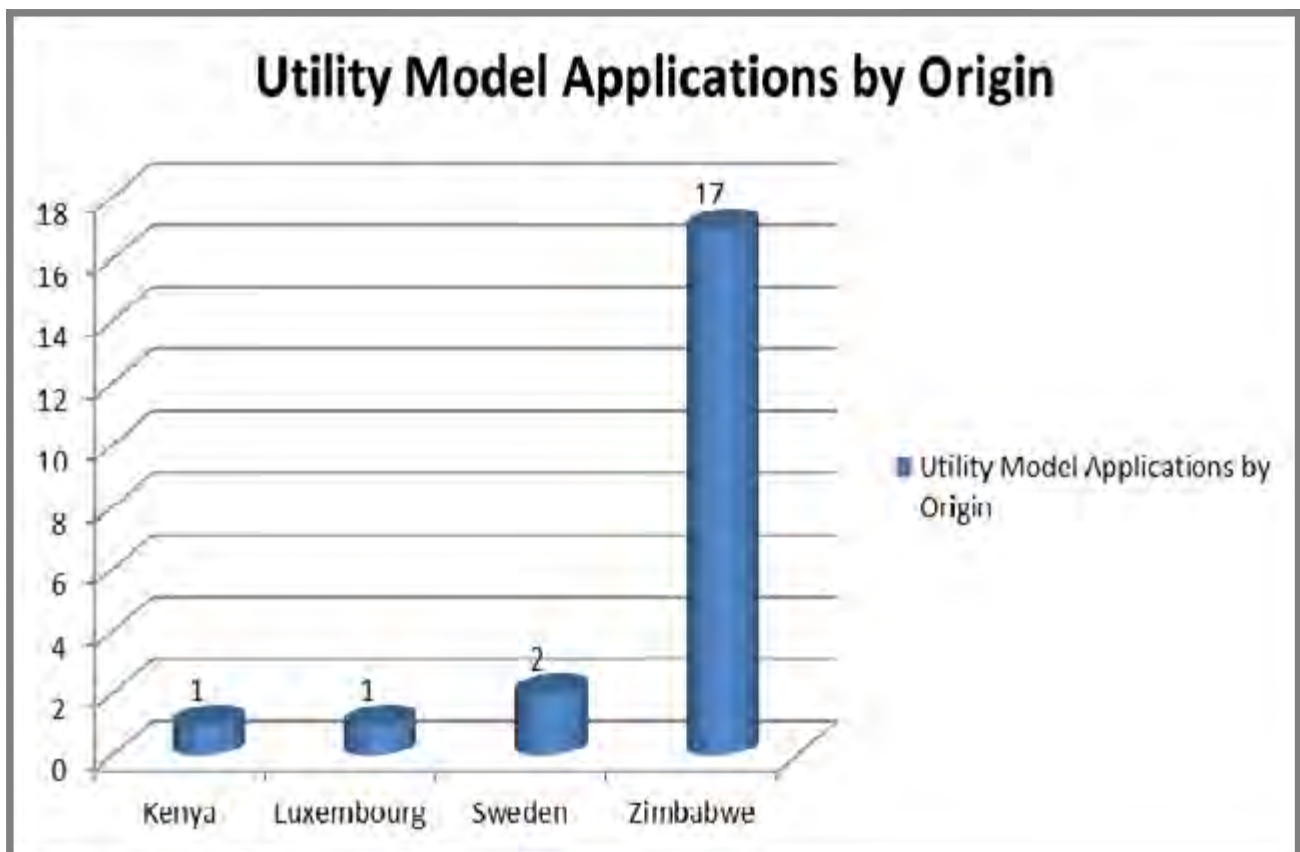


Figure 16: Origin of utility model applications filed at ARIPO in 2015.

TRADEMARKS

Trademark Applications Filed

In 2015, the ARIPO Office received 283 trademark applications down from 362 in the previous year 2014. This indicates a 21.8 percent decrease in the applications received in the year under review. See Figure 17 below.

Applications Filed According to Class

The 283 applications received were filed in 504 trademark classes. This is a 28.1 percent decrease from the 2014 level when 701 trademark classes were filed for from the 362 trademark applications the Office received. See Figure 17 below.

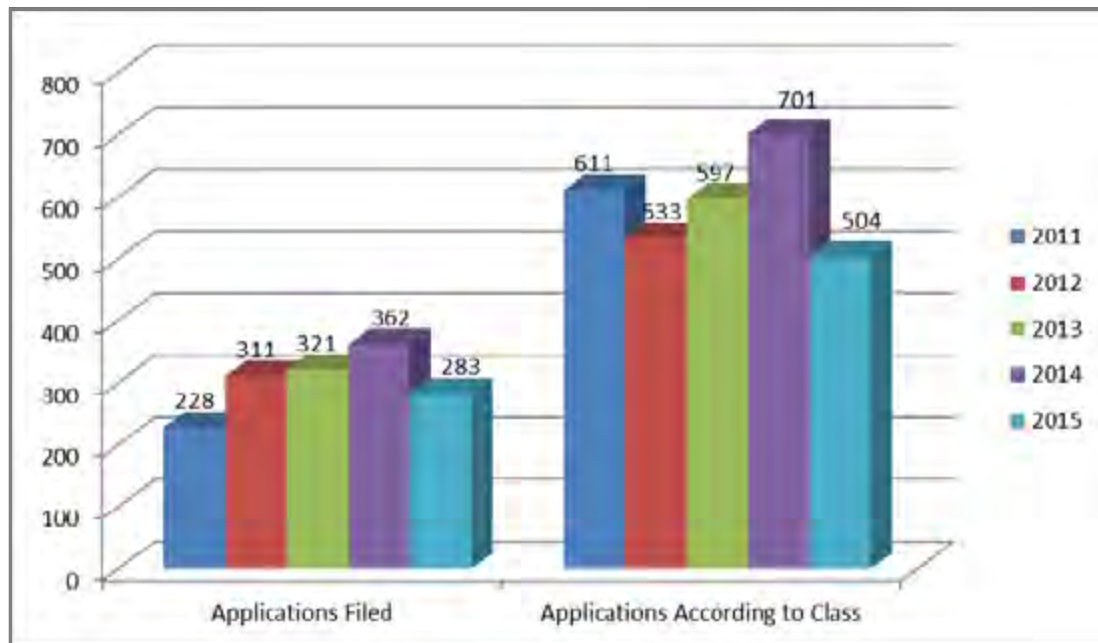


Figure 17: Trademark applications and applications according to class received from 2011 to 2015.

Origin of the Trademark Applications Filed

The 283 trademark applications which were filed in 504 classes at the ARIPO Office in 2015 originated from forty countries. To this total of lodgements, the ARIPO

region contributed 34 percent. In the total lodgements furthermore, South Africa filed 12 percent, Cayman Islands 6 percent and China 5 percent. While United Kingdom and India contributed 5 percent each, the United Arab Emirates, France and the United States filed 3 percent apiece. The rest of the world was responsible for filing 24 percent. See Figures 18 and 19.



Figure 18: Origin of trademark applications filed in 2015.

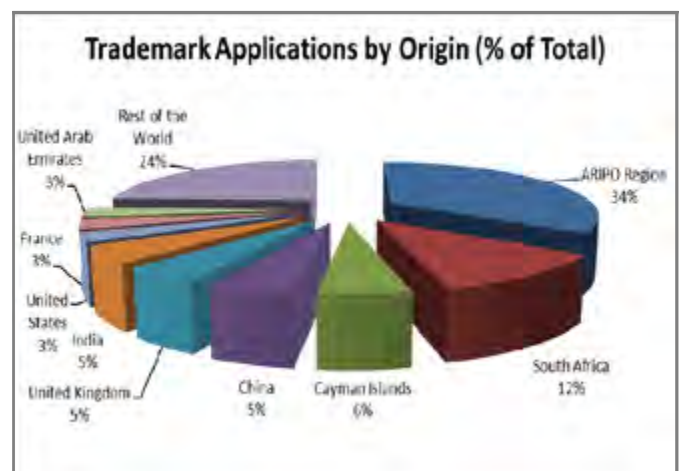


Figure 19: Origin of trademark applications filed as percentage of total.

Trademark Registrations by Nice Class

In 2015, a total of 338 trademarks were registered in some 39 classes of the Nice Classification in which the trademarks fell. This is a 22.6 percent drop from the 437 trademarks that were registered in the various Nice classes in 2014. See Figure 20.

Six classes namely; 1, 5, 9, 29, 30 and 41 led by claiming a combined 44.1 percent of the 2015 trademark registrations with class 5 contributing 28.6 percent of it making it the

most popular of them all. This was followed by class 30 with 16.6 percent of the above pack's popularity.

Figure 21 gives the number of trademarks that were registered in each of the classes to show the popularity of the classes out of the total contribution of the 39 classes with the least popular contributing into the rest of the classes category. Class 5 popularity in this regard accounted for 12.6 percent of all classes followed by classes 30 and 9 on 7.3 percent and 6.7 percent respectively.



Figure 20: Trademark registrations according to class from 2011 to 2015.



Figure 21: Trademark registrations made according to the classes in which they fell.

Trademark Registrations by Origin

Owners of these new trademark registrations came from 38 countries.

Outside the ARIPO region, India, Germany, China and the United Arab Emirates obtained 13 percent, 10 percent, 7 percent and 7 percent respectively.

The ARIPO region (represented in this case by Botswana and Zimbabwe) was responsible for 16 percent of the registrations and the rest of the world for 27 percent.

These statistics on distribution of trademark registrations by country of proprietor's origin can be seen in Figure 22.

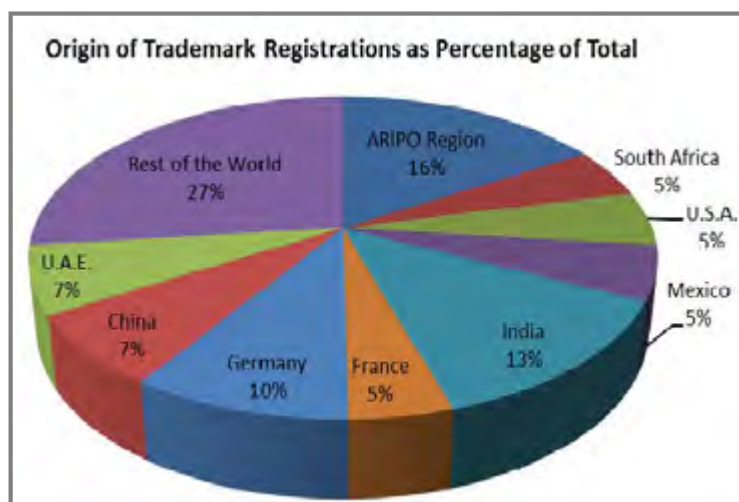


Figure 22: 2015 trademark registrations by country of origin.

IP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN ARIPO MEMBER STATES IN 2015

MEMBER STATE	PATENTS	UTILITY MODELS	INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS	TRADE MARKS	TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE	GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS
Botswana	9	3	13	1 130	3	1
Lesotho	2		1	291		
Kenya	196	115	85	4 693		
Mozambique	54	2	35	2 700		
Namibia	20		19	3111		
Rwanda	6	5	5	659		
São Tomé & Príncipe	0		55	765		
Sierra Leone	5			384		
Sudan	238		173	2 202		
Swaziland	2			477		
Tanzania, United Rep. of	28			3 307		
Uganda	9	1		2 665		
Zambia	32		20	1 615		
Zimbabwe	26	4		1 348		

Table 8: Statistical summary of various industrial property applications filed in 2015 in some of the ARIPO Member States.

Figures 23 and 24 give a comparison of respective statistics for patent and trademark applications, which were received in some of the ARIPO Member States in 2014 and 2015.

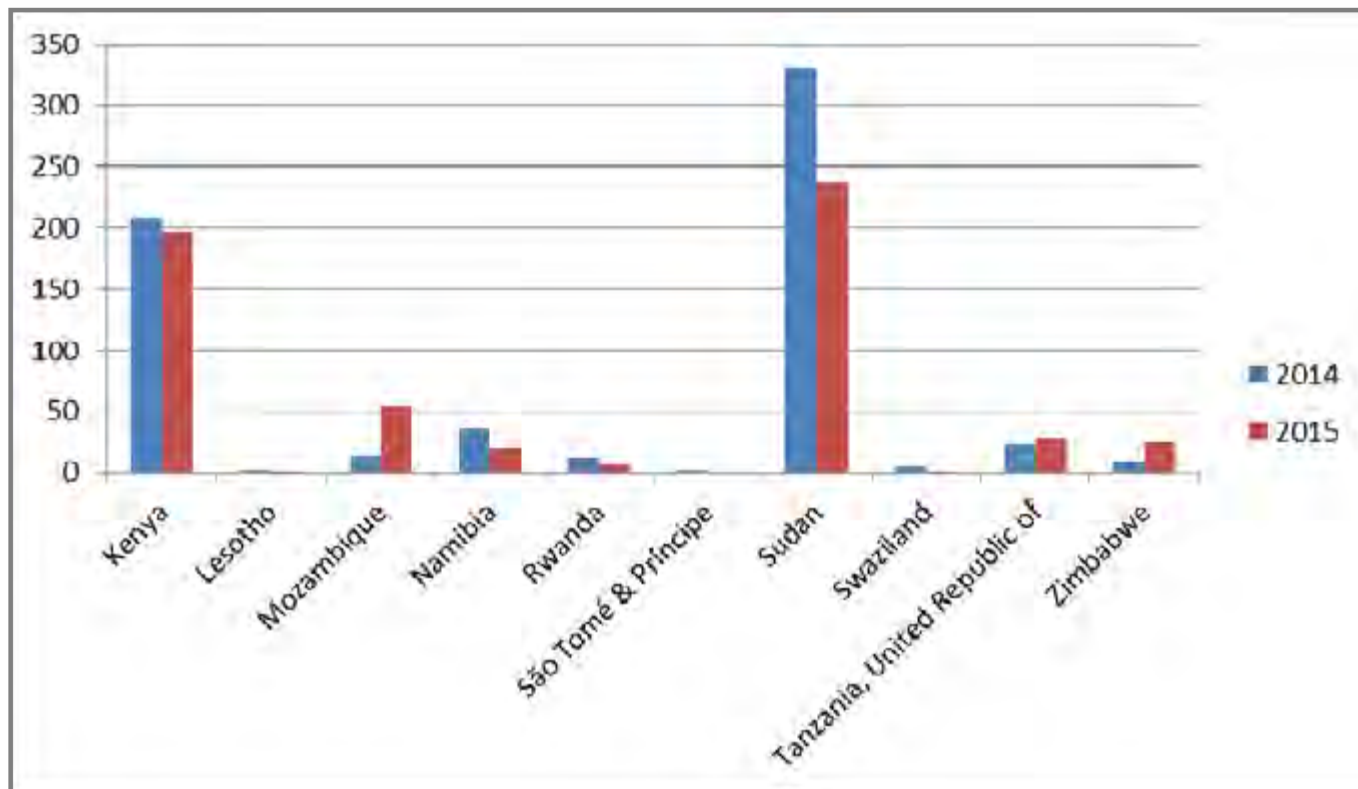


Figure 23: Graph showing variations (positive or negative) in patent applications received in some of the Member States in 2014 and 2015.

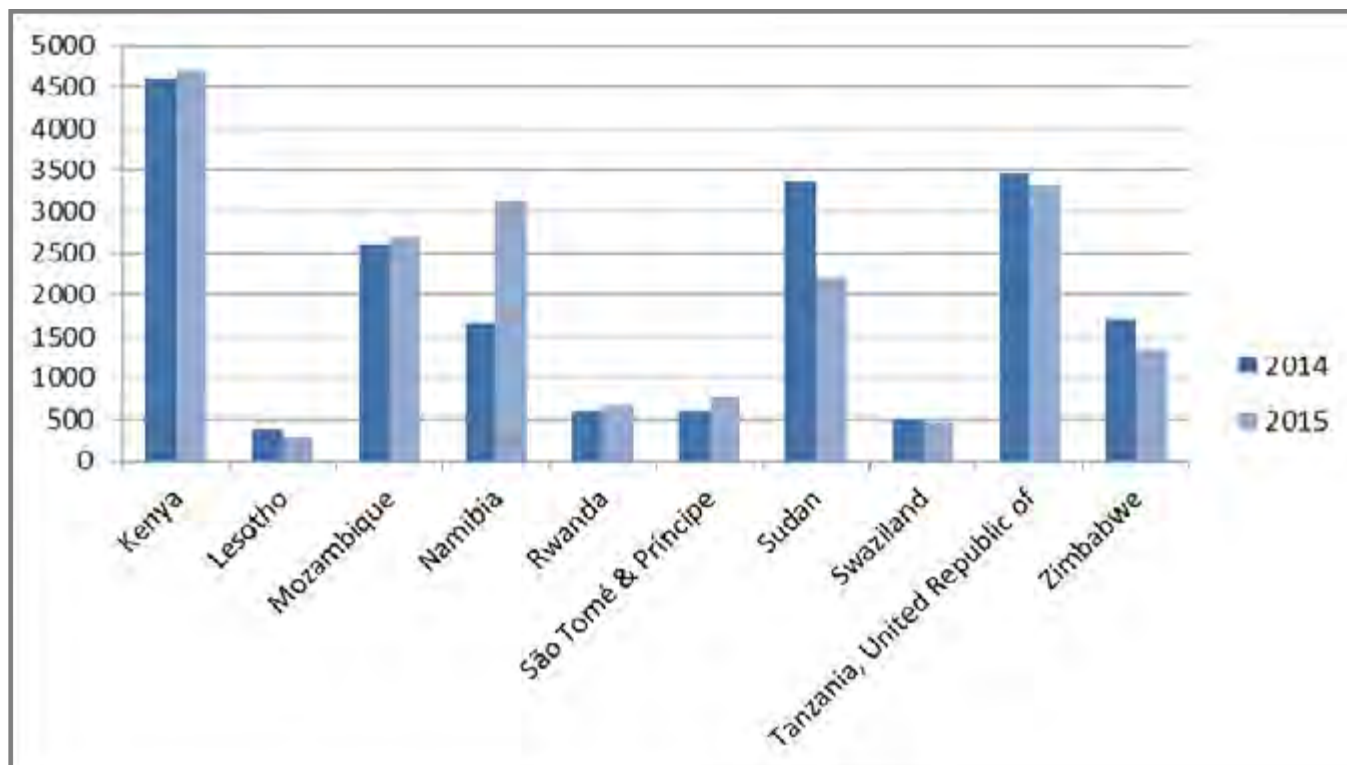


Figure 24: Graph showing variations (positive or negative) in trademark applications received in some of the Member States in 2014 and 2015.

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