

# COUNTRY REPORT

## ZIMBABWE



Zimbabwe

### WIPO Regional Training Workshop On Automation Status Reporting And Prerequisites For Online Tools Deployment

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# Outline

- Introduction
- IP office Structure
- Statistics
- Automation status
- Electronic registry
- Challenges
- Future plans

# Introduction

- Zimbabwe intellectual property office (ZIPO) is a section in the Department of Deeds, Companies and Intellectual Property under the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

## **The mandate of the office is to administer the following Acts:**

- Trademarks Chapter Act 26:04
- Patents Chapter Act 26:03
- Copyright and related rights Act Chapter 26:05
- Industrial Designs Chapter Act 26:02
- Armorial Bearings, Names, Uniforms and Badges Act Chapter 10:01
- Geographical indications Act Chapter 26:06

# IP Office Structure

Chief Registrar

Deputy Chief Registrar

6 Examiners

2 Data Capturers

1 Executive Assistant

1 Records Clerk

1 Office Assistant

( 10 members on permanent establishment and 3 on contract basis (Data capture clerks also working as the ICT administrator and Records management clerk)

# Statistics

	Trademarks	
National	91 554	
Banjul	2 188	
Madrid	4 113	

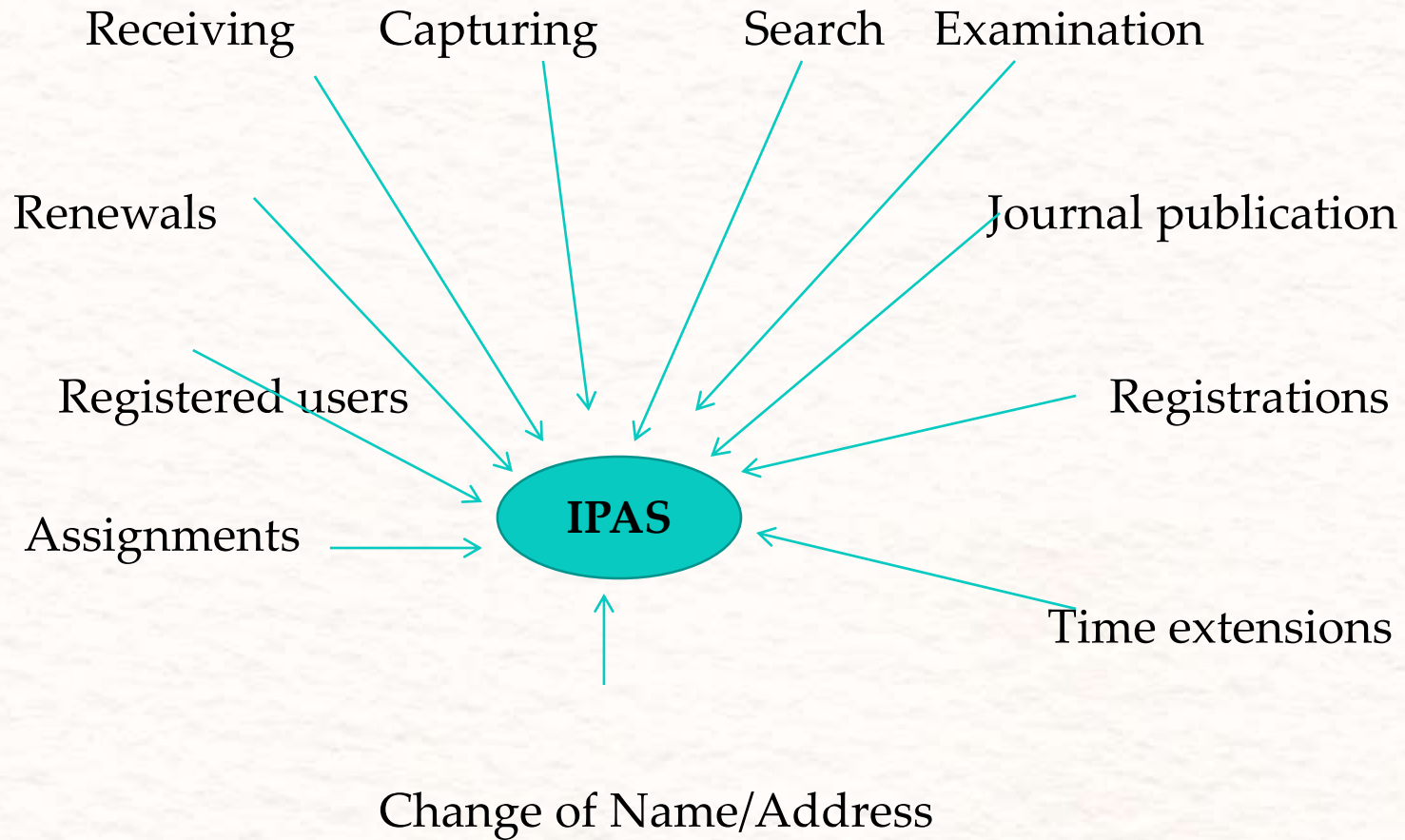
	Patents	In IPAS
National	5076	69
Harare	1523	1523
PCT	84	

	Industrial Designs	In IPAS
National	978	-
Harare	143	143

# Current Automation status

- New TM applications are received in the system, captured, logos scanned and saved in the system.
- The system supports the business processes from receiving, formalities, examination, searches, publication, registrations, change of ownerships and renewals.
- User documents for trademarks are received in the system allocated a number and are processed using the system.
- IP Journal is produced monthly and is generated using the system however it is not available online.
- The office receives and sends through the Member State Module ARIPO trademarks, Patents and Design notifications.

# Automated processes handled through IPAS - Trademarks



# Status of automation

OFFICE FUNCTION	IPAS
Reception	All new applications and user documents for Trademarks are received in IPAS.
Formality Checks	Is done using the system a filing receipt if generated.
Trademark searches	Similarity checks are done using the system (phonetic and manual).
Trademark examination and registration	Fully implemented certificate generated using the system
Trademark renewals	Fully implemented
Post registration changes (assignments, change of name and address, registered user documents)	Fully implemented
Journal publication	Generated using the system



# Electronic registry

- IP Journal is produced monthly and is generated using the system however it is not available online.
- ARIPO marks are uploaded in the IPAS as PDF files from ARIPO.
- Search and examination is done using IPAS.
- Notifications are generated and send to ARIPO using the Member State Module.
- Digitization of Patents and Industrial designs has not started though we do have Harare protocol applications received through the ARIPO member state module.
- The office also uses Madrid module for Madrid applications.

# Challenges

- No ICT section has been established for the office. The person working as ICT personnel is on contract basis therefore making it difficult for her to receive all the training that she requires.
- Slow pace in aligning laws with the digitization process.
- Figurative elements not classified causing difficulties in conducting searches for device marks.
- Staff compliment is too lean.
- Lack of financial resources.

## **Future plans**

1. To ensure that all business processes are automated (patents and industrial designs).
2. To make sure that data provided in the system is clean by embarking on data verification and validation project.
3. To provide on line services such as online filing, on line searches and online journal publications.
4. To continue update, supporting and maintaining the system to ensure efficiency.
5. To integrate IPAS with other office systems such as companies registry.

# Conclusion

The office is very thankful for the continued support by WIPO and JPO on assistance provided through:

- Software and Hardware
- Trainings
- Funding for the IPAS projects

# Thank you

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