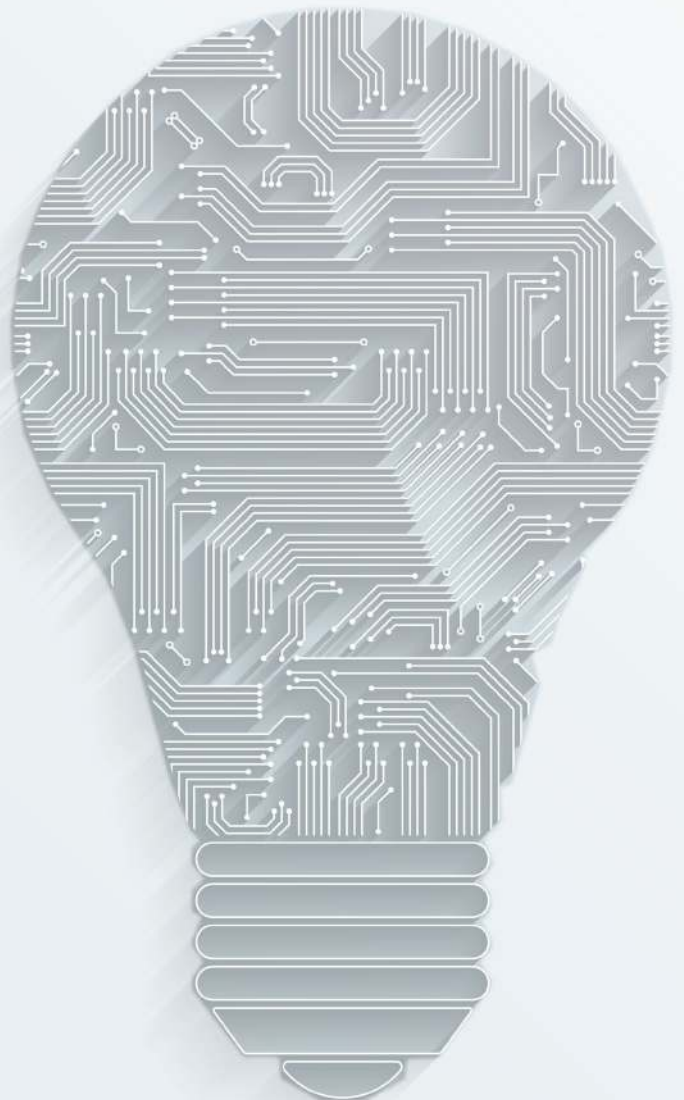


Nigeria IP Landscape

Intellectual Property Outlook

Strategic insights and emerging opportunities
shaping Nigeria's innovation ecosystem

20
26



Five Strategic Priorities

The following are key intellectual property priorities to watch out for in the year 2026, shaping the landscape of innovation.



Global IP Awareness

Embed IP education across stakeholders to drive strategic growth, risk reduction, and brand credibility. Rising recognition of IP's role in innovation.



Trade Secret Protection

Safeguard formulas, processes, and data through controlled access, secure storage, and training. Maintaining secrecy for competitive advantage.



Enforcement of IP Rights

Strategic legal and administrative actions to protect asset value. Treat enforcement as an integral strategy to deter infringement and enable monetization.



AI-Driven Innovation

Leveraging human-led cycles augmented by AI to accelerate creation. Balancing speed with judgment for market-ready outcomes.



IP Audits

Regular audits to uncover assets, manage risk, and align with strategy. Prepare for investment and maximize portfolio ROI.

Priorities Deep Dive I

A closer look at the mechanisms driving global awareness, protection, and enforcement in 2026.



Global IP Awareness

Education & Growth

"Rising recognition of IP's role in innovation, creativity, and economic growth."

Strategic Growth: Strong IP awareness enables businesses to expand strategically and reduce operational risks.

Brand Credibility: Enhances reputation by positioning organizations as trusted innovators.

Stakeholder Education: Forward-looking organizations embed IP education internally and externally to clarify economic significance.

Value Creation: Empowers creators to protect ideas and transform them into real-world commercial value.



Trade Secret Protection

Security & Assets

"Safeguarding formulas, processes, and data is vital for competitive advantage."

Holistic Measures: Demands controlled access, secure digital/physical storage, and rigorous employee training.

Exit Protocols: Careful handling of information during staff exits to prevent data leakage.

Dynamic Assets: Recognition that trade secrets require ongoing legal, operational, and cultural protection measures.

AI Context: Essential for retaining edge in rapidly changing, AI-augmented innovation environments.



Enforcement of IP Rights

Defense & Value

"Enforcement is central to protecting value and preserving exclusivity."

Strategic Action: Utilization of legal action, administrative measures, and ADR to ensure economic returns.

Market Signaling: Signals seriousness to the market and deters copycats or unauthorized use.

Monetization Support: Makes IP attractive for licensing, financing, and partnerships by securing rights.

Proactive Strategy: Moving beyond reactive steps to treat enforcement as an integral part of business strategy.

Priorities Deep Dive II

Leveraging artificial intelligence and strategic auditing for competitive advantage.



AI-driven Innovation

Reshaping Creativity

AI accelerates idea generation and provides data-driven insights, democratising creativity while shortening development cycles across industries.

Accelerated Ideation:

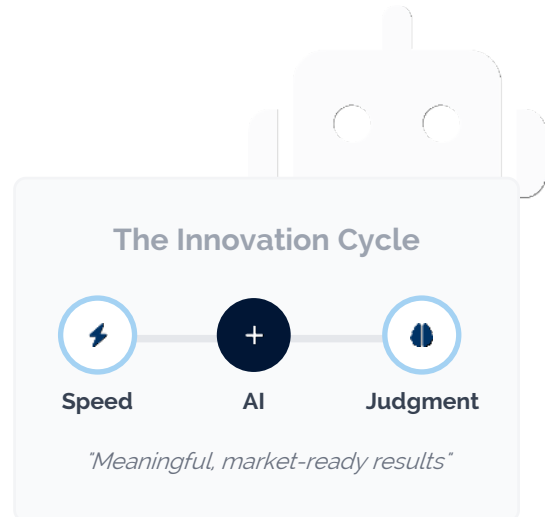
Surfacing possibilities humans might miss and shortening R&D timelines.

Democratised Creativity:

Enabling non-specialists to produce professional-level outputs.

Human-Led Cycle:

Combining AI speed and insight with human judgment for market-ready innovation.



IP Audits

Strategic Asset Management

Audit Objectives



Identify

Uncover hidden assets



Evaluate

Check strength & rights



Align

Match strategic goals

Audits provide a clear understanding of the IP landscape, identifying risks and opportunities to maximize portfolio value.

Landscape Clarity:

Uncovering hidden or unprotected assets and evaluating their enforceability.

Strategic Alignment:

Ensuring IP assets support commercialisation, licensing, and business goals.

Critical Timing:

Essential ahead of investment, mergers, or litigation to ensure compliance.

Five Critical Developments

Key transformations defining Nigeria's IP landscape



2026 Transition: Moving from policy-shaping to implementation, growth, and utilization of strategic frameworks.

Four New Tax Legislations

Implementation Timeline



Spotlighted Insights



Headline Rates vs. Complexity

While the four new laws (effective Jan 1, 2026) appear to offer reduced headline tax rates, the administrative complexity has increased. Calculating effective tax liability now requires a deeper understanding of new deductions and exemptions.



Reshaping Deal Structures

Licensing and distribution agreements across the creative sector are being fundamentally restructured. The interplay between cross-border rules and specific royalty treatments is driving a shift towards net-revenue protections in contracts.



Foreign Compliance Mandate

Foreign counterparties can no longer operate passively. The new framework enforces explicit compliance expectations, including registration and reporting, transforming how international partners engage with the Nigerian market.

Practical Next Steps

Action Required



Map Revenue Streams

Audit all income sources (royalties, licensing fees, services) and map them to the specific tax touchpoints defined in the new laws.



Review Cross-Border Contracts

Analyze existing international agreements to identify potential double taxation exposure and renegotiate gross-up clauses where necessary.



Align Compliance Workflows

Establish internal processes to ensure foreign partners meet their registration and reporting obligations to avoid withholding penalties.

Policy Implementation: From Framework to Action



National IP Policy & Strategy

Leveraging comprehensive strategies to transform Nigeria's IP landscape through institutional strengthening and creator empowerment.



Institutional Strengthening

Enhancing capabilities of IP offices, tribunals, and enforcement agencies nationwide.



Awareness & Education

Nationwide campaigns on IP value for creators, innovators, and creative economy stakeholders.



Economic Integration

Aligning IP frameworks with economic stability and prosperity objectives.



Creator Empowerment

Educating creators on IP value for economic growth and innovation.

Plant Variety Protection: UPOV Membership Activated

Journey to Global Alignment



Global Best Practices

UPOV framework compliance provides international recognition and protection standards.



Stakeholder Incentive

Encouraging plant breeders to secure IP rights through the PVP system.



Operational System

Nigerian Plant Variety Protection Office now accepting applications.



Impact for 2026: Nigeria's plant breeders gain access to a robust, internationally-recognized plant variety protection system, encouraging greater investment in agricultural R&D and innovation.

Geographical Indications: Protecting Indigenous Heritage



Draft GI Bill Submitted

The Nigerian Technical Working Group on Geographical Indications (NTWG-GI) submitted a draft Bill to the Minister in January 2025.



Rural Development

Creating pathways to rural development by protecting traditional knowledge.



Sustainable Agriculture

Promoting sustainable agricultural practices through protected product status.



Global Competitiveness

Enhancing global market access for Nigerian products.

GI Value Chain Enhancement



Production



Processing



Branding



Marketing

AI vs. Copyright: The Legal Frontier



AI: The Most Disruptive Force

Artificial intelligence has emerged as the most disruptive force across sectors, particularly challenging existing copyright frameworks not designed to address AI-generated issues.



Ownership Question

Determining ownership of AI-generated works challenges traditional authorship concepts.



Training Data Dilemma

Whether using copyrighted material in AI training constitutes infringement remains contested.



Fair Use Uncertainty

Courts struggle to apply fair use and text/data mining exceptions to AI training.



Global Legal Chaos

Ongoing litigation worldwide shows no clear consensus, leaving the IP landscape unsettled.



Critical Gap: Existing legal frameworks were not designed for AI's challenges, creating urgent need for new approaches to copyright in the age of machine creativity.

Landmark Cases Shaping AI Copyright Law

1

Getty Images v. Stability AI

Issue: Unauthorized use of copyrighted images to train AI image generator.

 Filed: Feb 2023 (D. Del.) • Case No. 1:23-cv-00135

2

Authors Guild v. OpenAI

Issue: Challenging OpenAI's training using copyrighted books without licenses.

 Filed: Sep 2023 (S.D.N.Y.) • Case No. 1:23-cv-08292

3

Thaler v. Perlmutter

Issue: Whether AI system (DABUS) can be recognized as inventor under copyright/patent law.

 Ruling: AI-generated works without human authorship are NOT copyrightable



Legal Landscape Status

These cases demonstrate that courts and stakeholders are actively grappling with AI-IP issues. However, **no clear global consensus** has emerged, leaving the legal framework unsettled.

IP Calendar 2026



Theme Announced: December 2025

"IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate" will drive the global IP community's focus throughout 2026.

World Book and
Copyright Day 2026

23
April

26
April

World Intellectual Property Day 2026, themed:
**"IP and Sports: Ready,
Set, Innovate!"**

INTA Annual Meeting,
London 2026

2-6
May

13
Sept.

The African Day for
Technology and
Intellectual Property

IP Ecosystem Impact: Economic Transformation

Collective Positioning for Economic Impact

The five key developments create a synergistic framework positioning Nigeria's IP ecosystem for transformative economic growth.

1

Strengthened Institutions

Enhanced IP institutions drive innovation by providing robust protection and clear legal frameworks.

2

Agricultural IP Value

UPOV membership boosts agricultural innovation value, encouraging investment in plant breeding.

3

Indigenous Product Protection

GI Bill protects traditional knowledge and enables rural communities to capture premium value.

4

Digital Economy Readiness

Addressing AI challenges positions Nigeria to capture value in the digital creative economy.

5

Global IP Alignment

WIPO initiatives and UPOV membership integrate Nigeria into global IP systems, facilitating international partnerships and technology transfer.

Synergy Effect: These interconnected developments create a comprehensive, modern IP framework supporting Nigeria's economic diversification and innovation agenda.

Strategic Imperatives for 2026

Implementation Readiness

Transitioning from 2025's policy-shaping year to 2026's implementation and growth phase.

→ Ready for activation

Policy Priorities

- ✓ Activate National IP Policy strategies
- ✓ Advance GI Bill through legislative process
- ✓ Monitor AI litigation for policy implications
- ✓ Strengthen institutional enforcement

Opportunities for Stakeholders

Creators: Leverage strengthened IP framework to protect and monetize works.

Businesses: Invest in R&D with confidence in plant variety protection and GI systems.

Investors: Capitalize on emerging opportunities in Nigeria's innovation ecosystem.



2026: The Transition Year

Moving from policy-shaping to implementation and growth, with measurable outcomes across all IP sectors.



The Future is **Implementation**

2026 marks the pivotal shift from
policy frameworks to tangible
outcomes in Nigeria's intellectual
property ecosystem.

From **creativity to innovation, from policy to practice**
— the IP landscape transforms to drive
economic prosperity.



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