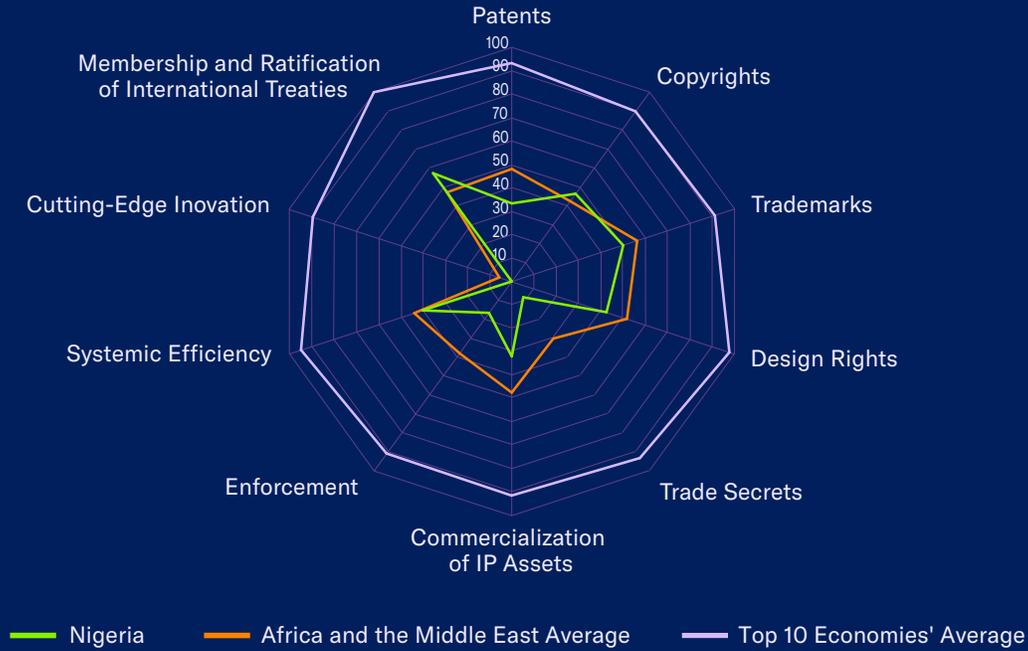




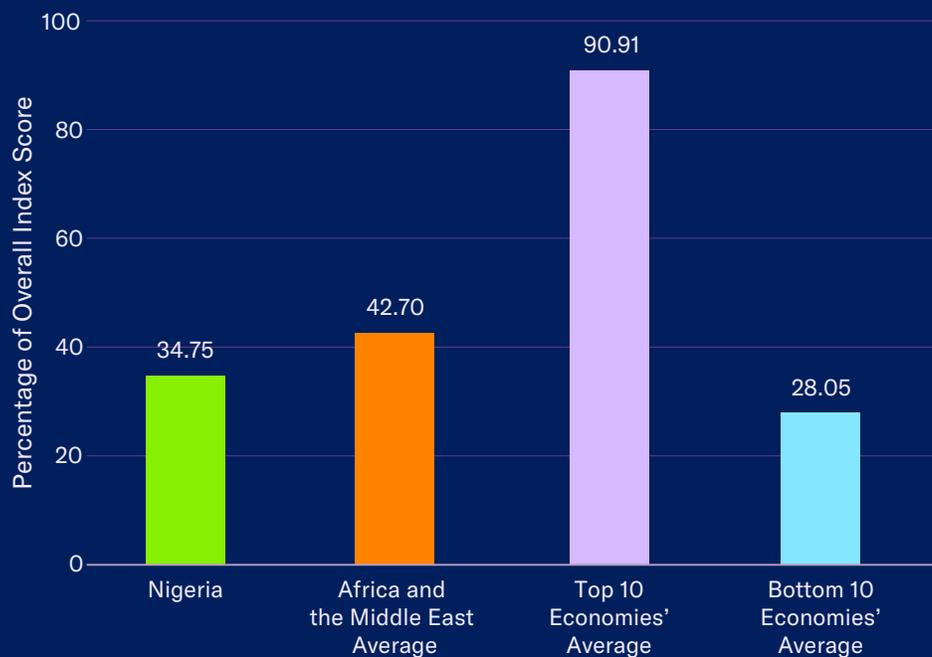
Nigeria

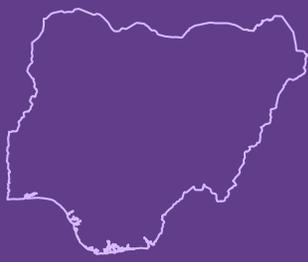
Rank
47/55

Category Scores



Overall Score in Comparison





Key Areas of Strength

- New *National IP Policy and Strategy* announced in 2025
- First time use of new copyright enforcement powers by NCC in 2025
- 2023 Copyright Act improves Nigeria's national IP environment
- Joined Convention on Cybercrime in 2022
- Plant Variety Protection Act 2021
- Joined UPOV 1991 in 2021
- Ratified the WIPO Internet treaties in 2017
- Despite overall challenging environment, ongoing enforcement efforts by NCC are encouraging

Key Areas of Weakness

- No special IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development
- Overall weak and limited legal and regulatory framework with major forms of IP rights not in place
- Enforcement challenges persist with only ad hoc efforts rather than national coordination
- Persistently high rates of physical and growing online piracy
- Software piracy estimated at 80% by BSA
- Localization barriers and restrictions in place on technology transfer and licensing activities which intensified in 2020
- NOTAP oversees all technology transfer and licensing between Nigerian entities and foreign licensors and has the power to evaluate and approve or disapprove technology transfer agreements including evaluating royalty amounts

Indicator	Score	Indicator	Score
Category 1: Patents Rights and Limitations	3.00	29. Direct Government intervention in setting licensing terms	0.00
1. Term of protection	1.00	30. IP as an economic asset	0.50
2. Patentability requirements	0.00	31. Tax incentives for the creation of IP assets	0.67
3. Patentability of CII	0.00	Category 7: Enforcement	1.16
4. Plant variety protection	1.00	32. Physical counterfeiting rates	0.21
5. Pharmaceutical-related enforcement	0.00	33. Software piracy rates	0.20
6. Legislative criteria and active use of compulsory licensing	1.00	34. Civil and procedural remedies	0.25
7. Pharmaceutical patent term restoration	0.00	35. Pre-established damages	0.00
8. Membership of a Patent Prosecution Highway	0.00	36. Criminal standards	0.25
9. Patent Opposition	0.00	37. Effective border measures	0.00
Category 2: Copyrights and Limitations	3.24	38. Transparency and public reporting by Customs	0.25
10. Term of protection	0.74	Category 8: Systemic Efficiency	2.00
11. Exclusive rights	0.50	39. Coordination of IP rights enforcement	0.25
12. Expeditious legal remedies disabling access to infringing content online	0.75	40. Consultation with stakeholders during IP policy formation	0.75
13. Cooperative action against online piracy	0.50	41. Educational campaigns and awareness raising	0.50
14. Limitations and exceptions	0.25	42. Targeted incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs	0.25
15. TPM and DRM	0.50	43. IP-intensive industries, national economic impact analysis	0.25
16. Government use of licensed software	0.00	Category 9: Cutting-Edge Innovation	0.00
Category 3: Trademarks Rights and Limitations	2.00	44. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
17. Term of protection	1.00	45. IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development, term of protection	0.00
18. Protection of well-known marks	0.25	46. Restrictions on the effective use of existing IP incentives for orphan medicinal product development	0.00
19. Exclusive rights, trademarks	0.50	Category 10: Membership and Ratification of International Treaties	4.00
20. Frameworks against online sale of counterfeit goods	0.25	47. WIPO Internet Treaties	1.00
Category 4: Design Rights and Limitations	0.85	48. Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks and Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks	0.00
21. Industrial Design Term of Protection	0.60	49. Patent Law Treaty and Patent Cooperation Treaty	1.00
22. Exclusive rights, industrial design rights	0.25	50. Membership of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, act of 1991	1.00
Category 5: Trade Secrets and the Protection of Confidential Information	0.25	51. Membership of the Convention on Cybercrime, 2001	1.00
23. Protection of trade secrets (Civil Remedies)	0.00	52. The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs	0.00
24. Protection of trade secrets (Criminal Sanctions)	0.25	53. Post-TRIPS FTA	0.00
25. Regulatory data protection term	0.00		
Category 6: Commercialization of IP Assets	1.92		
26. Barriers to market access	0.50		
27. Barriers to technology transfer	0.00		
28. Registration and disclosure requirements of licensing deals	0.25		

Total Score: 18.42

Spotlight on the National IP Environment

Past Editions versus Current Score

Nigeria's overall score has increased from 18.17 out of 53 indicators in the 13th edition to 18.42. This reflects a score increase on indicator 12.

Area of Note

In late 2025, Nigeria's Federal Executive Council finalized and passed a *National IP Policy and Strategy*. Over the last three years, the Nigerian Government has worked with the local WIPO office and other stakeholders to develop this document. The *Strategy* seeks to “connect innovators, creators and investors in a unified system, turning IP into tangible financial assets” and includes policies to strengthen legal protections and enforcement. The finalization of this document and long-term efforts to improve Nigeria's national IP environment would be a boon not only to Nigeria's economy but also to Africa's, given Nigeria's status as one of the continent's largest economies. As the Nigerian Government and National Assembly continue to pursue national IP rights reforms, we encourage them to use the findings of the Index and the accompanying *Statistical Annex* as a guide in 2026 and beyond.

Copyrights and Limitations

12. Expeditious injunctive-style relief and disabling of infringing content online:

In 2025, the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) announced that it had disabled the online piracy website MovieBox.ng. As noted at the time in the Index, Section 61 of the 2023 Copyright Act granted the NCC new powers and the authority to order the disabling of access to infringing content online through an injunctive-style administrative relief mechanism. As a result, the score on this indicator increased by 0.25.