



European
Commission

AFRICA

IP SME HELPDESK



**IP Country Fiche
MAURITIUS**





SECTION 1: COUNTRY OVERVIEW

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital:	Port Louis
Population:	1,301,907 million (2024)
Currency of government (official) fees:	Mauritian Rupee (MUR)
Language for filing	
IP applications:	English
GDP per capita:	11, 613 (World Bank 2023)
Human Development Index:	0.796 (UNDP 2024)
Main exports:	Sugar and clothing, animals, and vegetable oils. Oil, manufactured goods, capital equipment, pharmaceutical products and food.

1.2 INTERNATIONAL IP AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

Mauritius is a contracting state to the following international legal instruments:

- Beijing Treaty on Audio-visual Performances;
- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works;
- Marrakesh VIP Treaty
- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property;
- TRIPS¹ Agreement
- WIPO² Convention
- Patent Cooperation Treaty³
- Madrid Protocol⁴
- Hague Agreement for the international registration of industrial designs⁵

¹TRIPS Agreement: Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of intellectual Property Rights the World Trade Organization (WTO).

²WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization.

³https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/news/2022/news_0056.html

⁴https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/notifications/madridp-gp/treaty_madridp_gp_237.html

⁵https://www.wipo.int/hague/en/news/2023/news_0005.html#:~:text=Mauritius%20has%20joined%20the%20Hague,Agreement%20on%20February%206%2C%202023





Most of Mauritius's IP laws are TRIPS-compliant, although, in practice, the level of implementation may be different from that of other countries. This may have an impact on the effectiveness of some IP enforcement issues.

Mauritius is not a member of the Nice Agreement⁶ but its trade mark classification is based on the Nice Classification system.

1.3 REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Mauritius is a member of the following regional agreements:

The AfCFTA (the African Continental Free Trade Area) Agreement contains a Protocol on IP Rights, which aims to protect and promote IP rights in Africa effectively and may, therefore, have legal implications for Zimbabwe when it comes into legal force. Once enacted, the IP Protocol will ensure harmonised rules and principles for the promotion, protection, cooperation, and enforcement of IP rights.

COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)
COMESA has a policy on IP rights that aims to promote the use of IP rights by COMESA Member States so they can shift from resource-based to knowledge and innovation-driven economies and promote copyright protection for socio-economic development. COMESA has no regional IP agreements, protocols or registration systems in place.

Lusaka Agreement on the creation of the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)

Mauritius is an ARIPO Member State through being a signatory to the Lusaka Agreement. The Agreement was adopted by a Diplomatic Conference held in Lusaka, Zambia, on December 9, 1976. ARIPO was established mainly to pool the resources of its Member States in IP matters to avoid duplication of financial and human resources. It aims to achieve this by facilitating a voluntary centralised system for filing, registering and maintaining IP rights across its Member States, thus simplifying these processes in multiple countries. The Lusaka Agreement also serves as the foundational legal document for ARIPO, outlining its objectives, structure, and operational guidelines.

⁶ Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks.





Despite being ARIPO Member, Mauritius is not a contracting party yet to any of ARIPO's IP Protocols.

SADC Treaty (establishing the Southern African Development Community)

The main objectives of SADC are to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration. These objectives are to be achieved through increased Regional Integration, built on democratic principles, and equitable and sustainable development.

SADC has no regional IP agreements, protocols or registration systems in place. It has the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) which promotes the use and enforcement of IP rights to encourage research, development and innovation amongst SADC countries.

1.4 LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF IP PROTECTION AVAILABLE IN MAURITIUS

Mauritius is a member of:

- the [Madrid Protocol](#), for the registration of international trade marks;
- the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs; or
- the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), for the filing of international patent applications⁷.

On 31 January 2022, [the Industrial Property Act, 2019](#) came into force in Mauritius together with the [Industrial Property Regulations, 2022](#).

The Act consolidated the following IP laws of Mauritius governing trade marks national and international (Madrid Protocol), the filing of patents under national and, international (Patent Cooperation Treaty, PCT) routes and the registration of designs under national and international (the [Hague Agreement](#)) routes.

Mauritius protects the following IP rights:

1. Trade Marks (national and international);
2. Patents

⁷ <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/>





3. Utility Models;
4. Industrial Designs (national and international);
5. Geographical Indications;
6. Plant Breeders rights
7. Copyright
8. Layout-designs of integrated circuits;
9. Plant breeders' rights.

1.5 IP REGISTRATION ROUTES

Overview

IP is protected in Mauritius through national and international routes only which are indicated above. Regional protection is not available. Mauritius is a signatory to the Lusaka Agreement on the creation of ARIPO but has yet to join ARIPO's IP Protocols.

International

Trade marks under the Madrid Protocol: information on how to register international trade marks under the Madrid Protocol is available through this link:

<https://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>.

Industrial designs under the Hague System: information on how to register international trade marks under the Madrid Protocol is available through this link:

<https://www.wipo.int/hague/en/>.

Patent filings under the PCT: information on how to register patents under the PCT is available through this link: <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/faqs/faqs.html>.

Useful information about IP in Mauritius:

- Representation is required where an applicant is not a citizen of Mauritius or does not have a commercial connection with the country.
- Mauritius is a 'first to file' country: whoever files a particular trade mark first gets the rights.





SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF IP ENFORCEMENT

- The Mauritius IP Office (IPOM) is responsible for the protection of patents, industrial designs and trade marks. It also liaises with other agencies such as the Anti-Piracy Unit, the IPR Cell of the Customs Department, the judiciary and the rights holders on matters relating to the enforcement of IP rights.
- The Anti-Piracy Unit was established in 2001 as a division of the Police Force to strengthen the enforcement of IP rights. The Unit collaborates with the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA), the Ministry of Arts and Culture and IPOM in IP awareness-promotion and enforcement issues.
- Seizures of infringing and counterfeit goods and are usually reported by the press to raise awareness of IP and discourage counterfeiting.

SECTION 3: TYPES OF AVAILABLE IP PROTECTION

3.1 TRADE MARKS

Benefits of registering a trade mark

- A registered trade mark gives the owner exclusive rights to use it to market their products and services; it gives the owner protection against others using the same mark or a similar mark without authorisation.
- In the long run, a well-maintained trade mark can build the owner's brand and become an asset to their organisation. This can enable them to expand their business by licensing it to others, franchising or obtaining finance.

3.1.1 Who can register a trade mark?

A natural person, a company or any other entity can apply to register a trade mark.

However, a person who does not have their place of business in Mauritius needs a professional representative.





3.1.2 What are the registration requirements?

An application for registration of a trade mark shall include:

- a sufficiently clear reproduction or representation of the mark, as prescribed;
- a list of the goods or services based on the Nice Classification system - [Find out more about the NCL.](#);
- proof of payment of the prescribed application fee;
- a copy of the priority document, if applicable;
- a power of attorney, signed and legalised;
- a declaration and statement of case where the applicant is not the owner of the trade mark;

3.1.3 What qualifies for registration?

Any distinctive words, letters, numerals, drawings, colours, pictures, labels, or combination of the above, used to distinguish between the goods and services of different undertakings may be considered a trade mark.

3.1.4 What cannot be registered?

A sign cannot be registered as a trade mark if:

- it is not distinctive or cannot distinguish the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises;
- is contrary to public order or morality;
- consists solely of a sign or indication that may serve in trade to designate the kind, quality, quantity, intended purpose, value, geographical origin or time of production of goods or of rendering of services, or other characteristics of goods or services;
- consists solely of a sign or indication that has become generic in current language or in the bona fide established practices of the trade, or is a usual or recognised technical or scientific name of a product or service; consists solely of a shape that results from the nature of the goods or provides a technical result, functional advantage or substantial value to the goods;
- contains the armorial bearing, the flag or other emblem of a State party to the Paris Convention or of an international organisation, an official sign indicating





control warranty adopted by any such State or organisation, or constitutes an imitation of those signs from a heraldic point of view; is similar to a mark registered earlier or a mark that constitutes a reproduction, imitation or translation of a well-known mark;

- cannot be used in Mauritius by virtue of any law.

3.1.5 Where can I file an application?

- Trade mark applications must be filed at the Industrial Property Office of Mauritius (IPOM).
- The application process includes a formal examination of the application and a trade mark search and takes about 6 months. After registration, the trade mark is published in the official gazette.
- the International Bureau (WIPO) for Madrid Protocol applications but can also be filed through the IPO.
- In practice, international applications are filed directly with WIPO as it is more efficient to do so.

3.1.6 How much does it cost?

Government (official) fees

The fee schedule is published in a statutory instrument. Both local and foreign applicants may pay these fees using the local currency (Mauritian rupee, MUR). Application forms and information on fees are available through this link: [Industrial Property Office of Mauritius \(IPOM\) \(govmu.org\)](http://govmu.org).

Note on professional fees

Professional fees vary depending on several factors, including the level of experience of the professional concerned and the time spent on a task, amongst others.

It is advisable to obtain comparative quotes of fees from at least three Mauritius -accredited professionals. You can seek recommendations from IPOM.





Likely overall registration costs

An applicant can expect the cost of registering a trade mark to be in the region of the amounts set out in the table below (in Mauritius Rupee), unless objections and other special circumstances that may increase the costs apply.

Currently the following fees apply:

Description/Process or Service	Government Fees (Mauritius Rupee)
Application for registration: first class	6,000
Each additional class	2,000

The handling fee for Madrid international applications is [3,000 Rupees](#).

3.1.7 How do I register?

Trade-mark registration in Mauritius involves:

1. a preliminary search (carried out by you or your representative/agent) of existing trade marks;
2. application filing;
3. an examination of your application by the IPOM;
4. acceptance and publication of the application in the Government Gazette of Mauritius.
5. an opposition period (2 months from the date of publication);
6. issuance of a registration certificate (if there is no opposition after the prescribed 2 months).

3.1.8 What is the duration of protection?

10 years from the filing date.





3.1.9 How do I renew?

You can renew a trade mark every 10 years on payment of prescribed renewal fees. A trade mark can be renewed six months before its expiry date.

3.2 PATENTS

Patents are registered in Mauritius by the Industrial Property Office (IPOM) which is a division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

Presently, Mauritius cannot be included in an ARIPO patent application because it is not a signatory to the **Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs**.

International patent applications can be filed through the PCT. The PCT provides a patent filing route rather than a patent registration route. Find out more about the PCT system.

It is advisable to seek legal advice on the most effective way of filing your patent application.

3.2.1 Who can register a patent?

An inventor or successor in title can apply to register a patent. Two or more inventors can jointly apply for the grant of a patent.

3.2.2 What qualifies for registration?

An invention is patentable where it:

- i. is new (i.e., not anticipated by prior art);
- ii. involves an inventive step (i.e., having regard to the prior art, the invention is not obvious to a person skilled in the art); and
- iii. is capable of industrial application.





3.2.3 What cannot be registered?

The following are excluded from patent protection:

- discoveries, scientific theories and mathematical methods;
- literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works and any other aesthetic creation;
- schemes, rules or methods for doing business, performing purely mental acts and playing games;
- computer programmes;
- methods for the treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, including diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body;
- known substances for which a new use has been discovered and not applicable to the use itself, where they constitute a patentable invention;
- plants and animals, including their parts, other than microorganisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals and their parts, other than non-biological and microbiological processes;
- an invention whose primary or intended use would be contrary to public order or morality, whether or not the commercial exploitation of the invention is prohibited by law.

3.2.4 Where can I file an application?

Applications must be filed at the Mauritius Intellectual Property Office, IPOM. See [Guide on filing PCT international patent applications](#).

3.2.5 How much does it cost?

Registration fees consist partly of government (official) fees and partly of professional fees, as indicated below.

Government (official) fees

The fee schedule is published in a statutory instrument. Both local and foreign applicants may pay these fees using the local currency (Mauritian rupee, MUR). Application forms and information on fees are available through this link: [Industrial Property Office of Mauritius \(IPOM\) \(govmu.org\)](#).





Note on professional fees

Professional fees vary depending on several factors, including the level of experience of the professional concerned and the time spent on a task.

It is advisable to obtain comparative quotes of fees from at least three Mauritius IPO-accredited professionals. A list can be obtained from <https://foreign.govmu.org/>.

Likely overall registration costs for a Mauritian patent

Currently the filing fees are 10,000 (Mauritian Rupee).

Type of fee	Government Fees (MUR)
Application for grant of patent	10,000

3.2.6 How long does registration take?

Registration takes between 18- 24 months.

3.2.7 What is the duration of protection?

Protection lasts 20 years from the filing date, subject to the payment of annual maintenance fees.

3.2.8 When are renewal fees paid?

Renewal fees are paid from the third anniversary of the filing date up to the 20th year. Late payment, with a corresponding surcharge, is possible within a grace period of 6 months after the due date.

Currently the following government (official) renewal fees apply:

Annuity Years	Government Fee (MUR)
3 and 4	3000
5 to 9	<u>10,000</u>
10 to 14	<u>30,000</u>
15 to 19	<u>50,000</u>





3.3 UTILITY MODELS

Utility models can only be registered through the national IP Office. Mauritius is not a signatory to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Designs which provides for the registration of regional utility models for its Member States. The ARIPO system allows voluntary membership to its IP Protocols.

3.3.1 Who can register?

An inventor or successor in title can apply to register a utility model.

3.3.2 What qualifies for registration?

An invention may be registered as a utility model if it is:

- a) new; and
- b) industrially applicable.

3.3.3 What cannot be registered?

The following cannot be registered as utility models in Mauritius:

- discoveries, scientific theories, and mathematical methods;
- literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work and any other aesthetic creation;
- schemes, rules, or methods for doing business, performing purely mental acts and playing games;
- computer programmes;
- plants and animals, including their parts, other than microorganisms, and essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals and their parts, other than non-biological and microbiological processes;
- inventions, the primary or intended use of which would be contrary to public order or morality; and
- inventions having as subject matter a process or a method.





3.3.4 Where can I file an application?

You must file the application at the Industrial Property Office (IPOM).

Procedure for National Filing

- a. **Application for Registration:** The application must be filed with the Director in the specified form and manner. It must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as prescribed.
- b. **Examination and Registration:** After assigning a filing date, the Director will examine if the application complies with new and industrially applicable and other relevant provisions.
- c. **Approval:** If the application complies, the Director will register the utility model. If the application does not comply with the Act, the Director will reject the application and notify the applicant.

3.3.5 How much does it cost?

Find the cost [here](#).

Note on professional fees

Professional fees vary depending on several factors, including the level of experience of the professional concerned and the time spent on a task, amongst others.

It is advisable to obtain comparative quotes of fees from at least three Mauritius -accredited professionals.

3.3.6 How long does registration take?

In the absence of unusual delays, it takes 9 - 15 months to register.

3.3.7 What is the duration of protection?

The duration of protection is 6 years from the filing date, renewable for two further periods of 2 years each.





3.3.8 When are renewal fees paid?

Renewal fees must be paid each year, starting one year after the filing date of the application or the grant of the utility model.

Late payment of the annual fees, with a corresponding surcharge, is possible within a grace period of 6 months after the due date.

See here for [utility model renewal fees](#).

3.4. INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

Designs can only be registered nationally through IPOM or internationally through the Hague System which is administered by WIPO. [Find out more about the Hague System for the international registration of designs](#).

On February 6, 2023, the Mauritius government deposited their document of accession to the 1999 Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement.

To file applications through the Hague system the Mauritius IPO directs applicants to access the link here for guidance: [Hague System. \(govmu.org\)](#)

Mauritius is not a signatory to a regional design registration system presently even though it is an ARIPO Member State which operates a regional design registration system.

Mauritius conducts formal and substantive examination of design applications.

3.4.1 Who can register?

A creator of an industrial design or successor in title can apply to register a design in Mauritius.

It is possible for two or more persons or companies to jointly own and apply for the registration of an industrial design.





3.4.2 What qualifies for registration?

An industrial design will be protected where it is new (i.e. undisclosed to the public anywhere in the world) and original (i.e. it significantly differs from known designs/combination of known designs features).

3.4.3 What cannot be registered?

A design cannot be registered if:

- its features are solely dictated by technical or functional considerations;
- its commercial exploitation may be contrary to public order or morality.

3.4.4 Where can I file an application?

National applications are filed through the Mauritius IP Office, IPOM International design applications can be filed through the Hague System Find out more about the Hague System [here](#).

3.4.5 How much does it cost?

Find the registration cost [here](#).

Likely overall registration costs for a Mauritian industrial design

An applicant can expect the cost of registering an industrial design to be in the region of the amounts set out in the table below (in Mauritius Rupee), unless objections and other special circumstances which increase costs apply.

Description of the Process/Service	Government Fees (MUR)
Application for registration of industrial designs	4000
Registration of industrial designs	<u>6000</u>





Note on professional fees

Professional fees vary depending on several factors, including the level of experience of the professional concerned and the time spent on a task.

It is advisable to obtain comparative quotes of fees from at least three Mauritius IPO-accredited professionals.

A list can be obtained from:

<https://foreign.govmu.org/Pages/Industrial%20Property%20Office/Industrial-Property-Office.aspx>

3.4.6 How long does registration take?

Registration usually takes 15-18.

3.4.7 What is the duration of protection?

The duration is 5 years from the filing date of the application, renewable for three further consecutive periods of 5 years each.

3.4.8 When are renewal fees paid?

Renewal fees must be paid within 6 months of the due date.

The renewal fees are currently MUR 5000 for the first renewal and MUR 7000 for the second renewal fee and 10000 MUR for the third renewal. There is a surcharge fee of MUR 2000 for the late payment of renewal fees.

Filing Through Hague System

3.5 GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GIs)

About GIs in Mauritius

GIs are registrable in Mauritius under Sub-Part C of Part VII of the Industrial Property Act 2019.





GIs are registered through the Industrial Property Office of Mauritius. Currently, there is no regional or international registration system through which GIs can be registered for Mauritius.

3.5.1 Who can register?

The following can apply for the registration of a GI:

- a group of producers, or a legal entity that groups the producers, that operates in a specified geographical area to produce specified goods, or a Government department, on behalf of the group of producers or legal entity.
- A GI application can be made individually by any of the above, or jointly with others.

3.5.2 Can European GIs be registered?

European GIs do not appear to be registrable under the current national law. For information about the protection of the European GIs in African countries, the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network should be consulted at: [home - oriGIn | Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network \(origin-gi.com\)](http://home-origIn | Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (origin-gi.com)).

3.5.3 What qualifies for registration?

An indication that identifies a good as originating in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that country, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

3.5.4 What cannot be registered?

A geographical indication cannot be registered if it is:

- an indication whose use needs to be prevented on the ground of public order or morality;
- a geographical indication that is not, or that ceases to be, protected, or that has fallen into disuse, in its country of origin;
- an indication that is identical with the term customary in common language in Mauritius as the common name for the relevant goods or services.





3.5.5 Where can I file an application?

Applications for registration must be submitted to the Mauritius Industrial Property Office.

3.5.6 How much does it cost?

The fee schedule is usually published in a statutory instrument. Both local and foreign applicants may pay these fees using the local currency (Mauritian Rupee, MUR).

Application forms and information on fees can be available through this link: [FEES](#)

Note on professional fees

Professional fees vary depending on several factors, including the level of experience of the professional concerned and the time spent on a task.

It is advisable to obtain comparative quotes of fees from at least three Mauritius IPO-accredited professionals.

3.5.7 How long does registration take?

Unless substantive objections are raised or there are unusual delays, a GI application takes on average 15-18 months to complete registration. This includes an opposition period of 3 months.

3.5.8 What is the duration of protection?

The registration of a GI is for a term of 10 years from the filing date of the application for registration. It may be renewed for consecutive periods of 10 years on payment of a renewal fee.

3.6 LAYOUT DESIGNS OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

Layout designs of integrated circuits ('layout designs') are registered in Mauritius under Part IV of the Industrial Property Act 2019.





Currently, there is no regional or international registration system through which layout designs can be registered for Mauritius.

3.6.1 Who can register?

An application for registration of a layout design can be made by, or on behalf of, the following:

- the creator of the layout design;
- the right to a layout design may be assigned or transferred by succession.
- Where several persons have jointly created a layout design, the right to the layout design will belong to them jointly.

3.6.2 What qualifies for registration?

A layout design is registrable if:

- it is a 3-dimensional disposition, however expressed, of the elements, at least one of which is an active element, and some or all of the interconnections of an integrated circuit, or a 3-dimensional disposition prepared for an integrated circuit intended for manufacture.
- it is original, being the result of its creator's own intellectual effort; and not commonplace among creators of layout designs and manufacturers of integrated circuits at the time of its creation; and
- it has not yet been exploited commercially anywhere in the world or has not been exploited commercially anywhere in the world for more than 2 years prior to the application for its registration;

3.6.3 What cannot be registered?

Any layout designs whose use would be contrary to the law, public policy or morality is not registrable.

A layout design that is not original and has been exploited commercially for more than 2 years before the application for its registration is also not registrable.

3.6.4 Where can I file an application?

An application must be submitted on the prescribed form to the Director of the Mauritius





Industrial Property Office, IPOM.

3.6.5 How long does registration take?

It takes up to 3 years on average to complete registration, including substantive examination. The Industrial Property Act 2019 includes substantive examination which can take up to 18-25 months.

3.6.6 What is the duration of protection?

The duration of protection is 10 years from the application filing date, and is not renewable.

3.7 PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS

The registration of new plant varieties is provided for in Part V of the Industrial Property Act 2019 of Mauritius.

Registrations are handled by the Industrial Property Office of Mauritius, IPOM.

Mauritius is not a signatory to ARIPO's [Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants](#). As a result, it is not possible to register new plant varieties for Mauritius regionally.

Mauritius has initiated the procedure for acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

3.7.1 Who can register?

An application for the registration of plant breeders' rights can be made by:

- a person who has bred, or discovered and developed, a plant variety;
- a person who is the employer of the person referred to above or who has commissioned their work;
- their successor in title.

3.7.2 What qualifies for registration?

- A registrable variety must be:





- new,
- distinct
- uniform; and
- stable

3.7.3 What cannot be registered?

A variety cannot be registered if it is not new, distinctive, uniform and stable. Varieties that are prohibited from registration by law are also not registrable.

3.7.4 Where can I file an application?

Applications must be filed at the Industrial Property Office (IPOM).

3.7.5 How much does it cost?

You can obtain the fees from IPOM's website [here](#).

3.7.6 How long does registration take?

It takes an average of 3 years from the application date to complete registration in the absence of special circumstances.

3.7.7 What is the duration of protection?

The duration is 25 years from the filing date and is not renewable.

3.7.8 When are renewal fees paid?

The owner of a PBR must pay an annual fee, at such a time as may be prescribed. See section 65 of the Industrial Property Act of 2019.

3.8 COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

Mauritius has many famous traditional dance styles. The most typical folkloric dance of Mauritius





is the sega of African origin. This dance is pulsated by the beat of the ravanne, a circular drum, and other rhythmic instruments such as the maravanne and triangle. Originally danced and sung by slaves, the sega has been adopted by all Mauritians and is played on all occasions. More recently, a new sound, a mixture of the sega and reggae music, has found its way into the musical culture of Mauritius. This fusion music called the seggae, is a melodious and entertaining new rhythm that reflects the mixed aspect of Mauritius, emerged in the 80s.

About Copyright and Neighbouring Rights in Mauritius

Mauritius has a dedicated law for the protection of copyright, namely the Copyright Act 2014. Mauritius is a signatory of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

3.8.1 Can I register?

Copyright is not a registrable right in Mauritius. It exists automatically when any original work is created in one of the categories that is protected by the Copyright Act of 2014.

Mauritius is a member of ARIPO which is in the process of implementing a system for voluntary registration of copyright under the Kampala Protocol. See the Kampala Protocol [here](#). ARIPO adopted the Implementing Regulations to the Protocol in November 2022. The Protocol requires at least 5 ARIPO Member States to deposit instruments of accession or ratifications for it to come into operation.

The Protocol mandates ARIPO to establish a regional copyright database and offers presumption as to authorship and ownership. c Please see more details on this development [here](#).

3.8.2 What qualifies for protection?

Any original (i.e., author's own intellectual creation) artistic, literary or scientific work, including:

- a book, pamphlet or other writing;
- an illustration, map, plan or sketch;
- a lecture, sermon or any other address of a similar nature;
- a dramatic or dramatico-musical work;
- a musical work;





- a choreographic work or pantomime;
- an audio-visual work;
- a sound recording;
- a work of fine art, such as a drawing or painting; or architecture or sculpture, an engraving or lithography or applied art;
- a photographic work;
- a computer program.

3.8.3 What cannot be protected?

- any idea, procedure, system, method of operation, concept, principle, discovery or mere data;
- any official text of a legislative, administrative or legal nature, as well as any official translation news of the day or miscellaneous facts having the character of mere items of press information;
- political speeches and speeches delivered in the course of legal proceedings;
- a judgment of a court of law or tribunal.

3.8.4 What are examples of acts permitted in relation to copyright works?

Permitted acts that do not infringe copyright include:

- private reproduction for personal purposes;
- temporary reproduction;
- quotation from a work that has lawfully been made available to the public where the quotation is compatible with fair practice;
- reproduction and other utilisation for teaching and scientific, non-commercial purposes;
- reproduction by libraries and archives;
- reproduction, broadcasting and other communication to the public for informatorily purposes in a newspaper or periodical, the broadcasting or other communication to the public;
- reproduction, adaptation of computer programs and decompilation;
- distribution of copies of works where a work has been distributed by means of the sale of fixed copies to the public;
- a public display of originals or copies of works where the display is not made by means of a film, slide, television image, or otherwise, on screen; or any other device or process;





3.8.5 What acts are not permitted in relation to copyright works?

Restricted acts include:

- reproducing the work;
- publishing the work;
- importing the work into Mauritius or exporting it from Mauritius, otherwise than for personal and private use;
- causing the work to be transmitted in a cable programme service, unless the service transmits a lawful broadcast and is operated by the original broadcaster;
- making an adaptation of the work.

3.8.6 What is the duration of protection?

The duration of copyright protection in Mauritius is as follows:

- literary works: the lifetime of the author plus 50 years;
- work of joint authorship: 50 years after the death of the last surviving author;
- an audio-visual work: 50 years from the date on which the work was made or first made available to the public;
- work published anonymously or under a pseudonym: 50 years from the date on which the work was made or first made available to the public;
- a broadcast: 50 years from the date on which the broadcast first took place;
- a work of applied art: 25 years from the making of the work.

3.8.7 Can I renew copyright after its term of protection expires?

Copyright cannot be renewed once its term has expired. The work enters the public domain at.





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