

BIWEEKLY REPORT



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Introduction

With intellectual property gradually playing a dominant role in the development of most countries and regions around the world, African countries have also gradually attached importance to intellectual property protection in recent years. Currently, Africa is one of the regions where the integration of intellectual property protection is rapidly developing, and more and more enterprises are seeking to apply for patents in Africa. This report will analyze the development of patents in Africa in the past 20 years (Data as of October 25, 2023).

Part 1: General information

Over the past decade, the volume of patents applied for in the African region has exceeded 140,000, with a decreasing trend in patent applications from 2014 to 2020 and a rebound in patent applications in 2021 and 2022. The significant decrease in patent application volume in 2023 is mainly due to the fact that some patents have not yet been published (as shown in [Figure 1](#)).

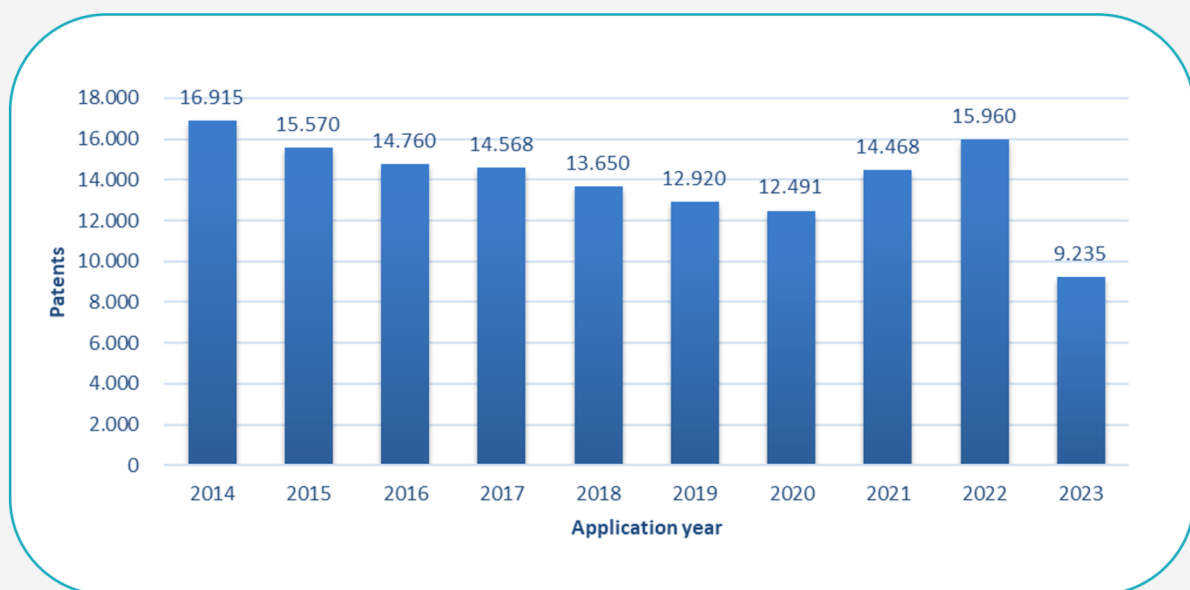


Figure 1 Patent application trend in African

The patents applied for in the African region are mainly invention patents, accounting for 85.76% of the total volume of patents, followed by design patents, accounting for 13.57%. The proportion of utility model patents is very low, only 0.66% (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

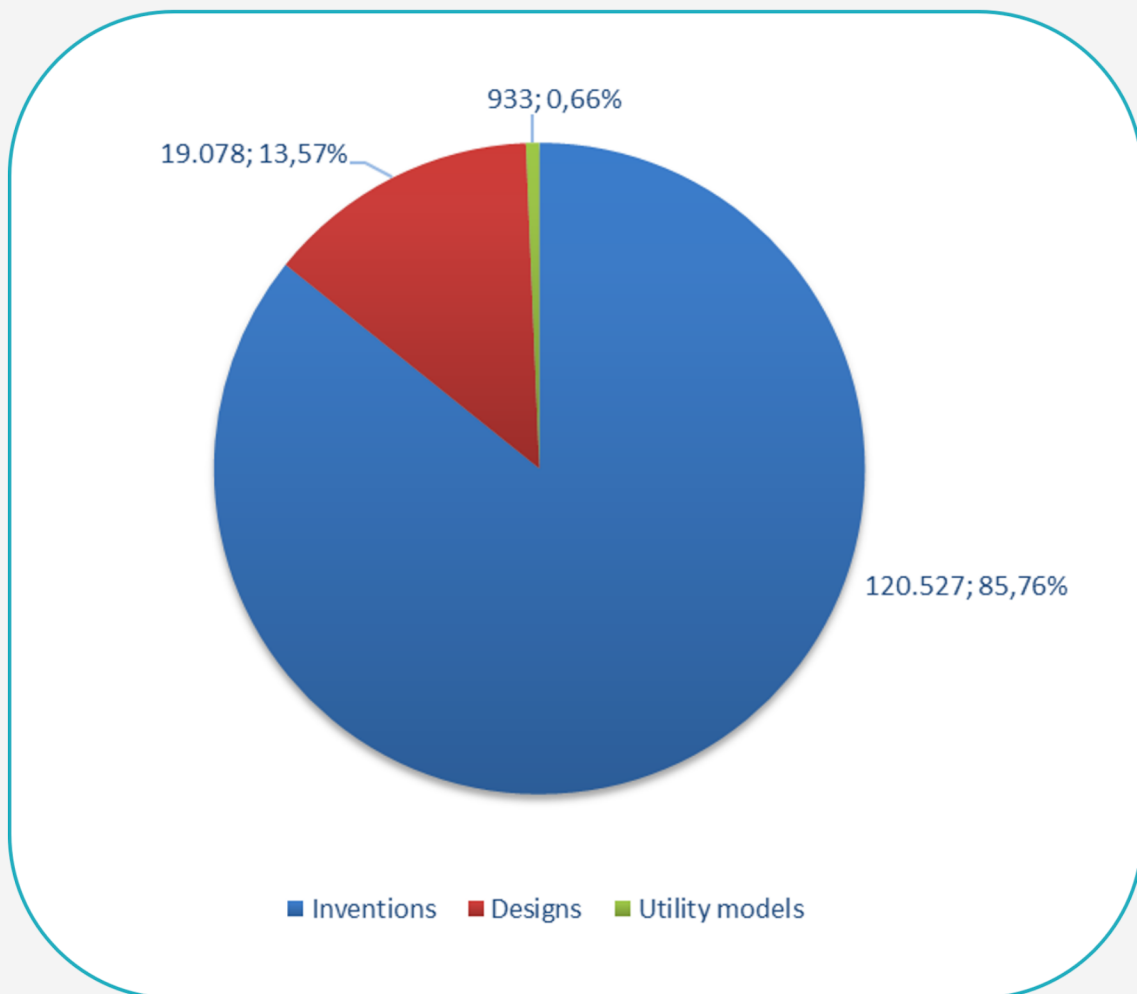


Figure 2 Patent types

From the perspective of legal status, currently 50% of patents are in force, while 47% are in an unconfirmed or pending (as shown in [Figure 3](#)). A large proportion of patents have not yet completed examination, which to some extent reflects the relatively low efficiency of local patent examination.

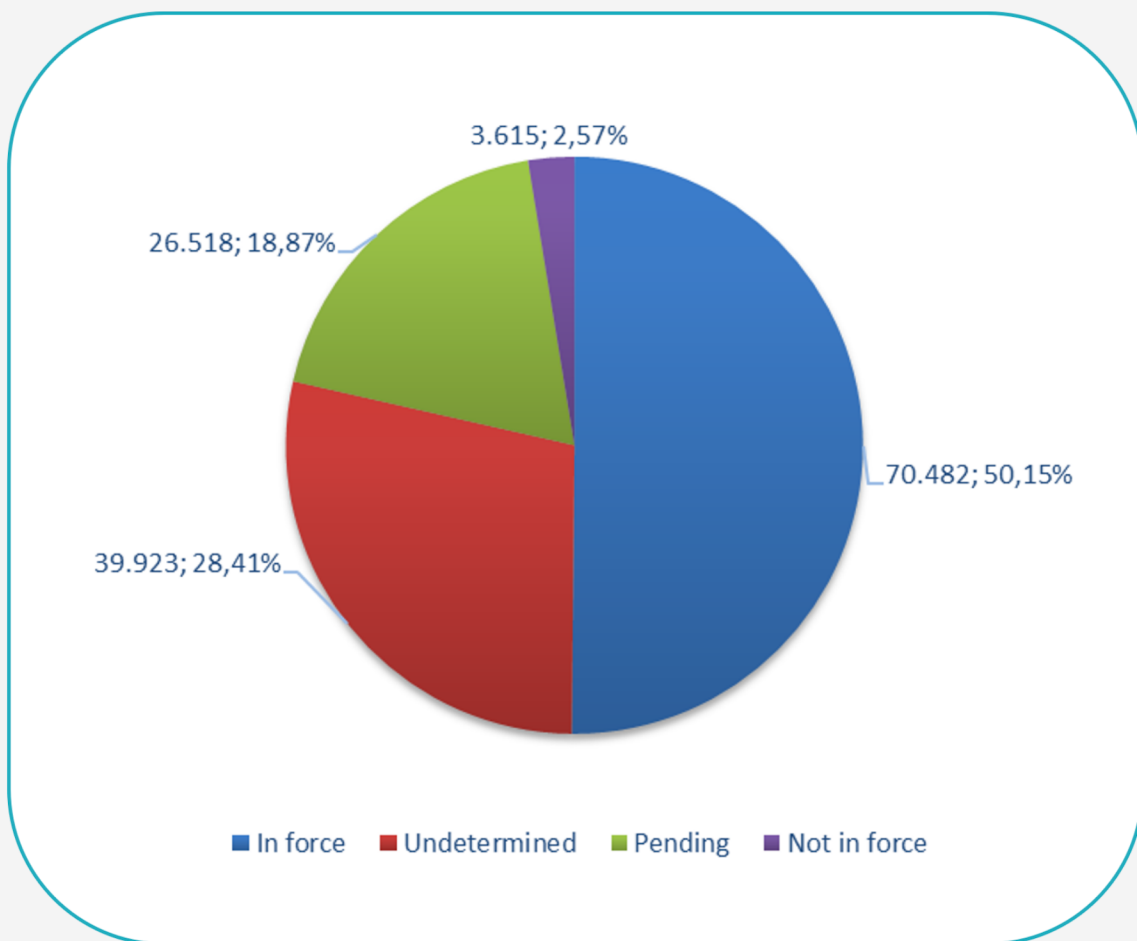


Figure 3 Legal status

Part 2: Geographic Territories

In terms of patent technology origin, patent applications in Africa mainly come from other continents. Although South Africa has the highest number of applications, the other major technology origin countries are mostly from other regions. The United States, EPO, and China have the highest volume of applications in South Africa among other continents (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

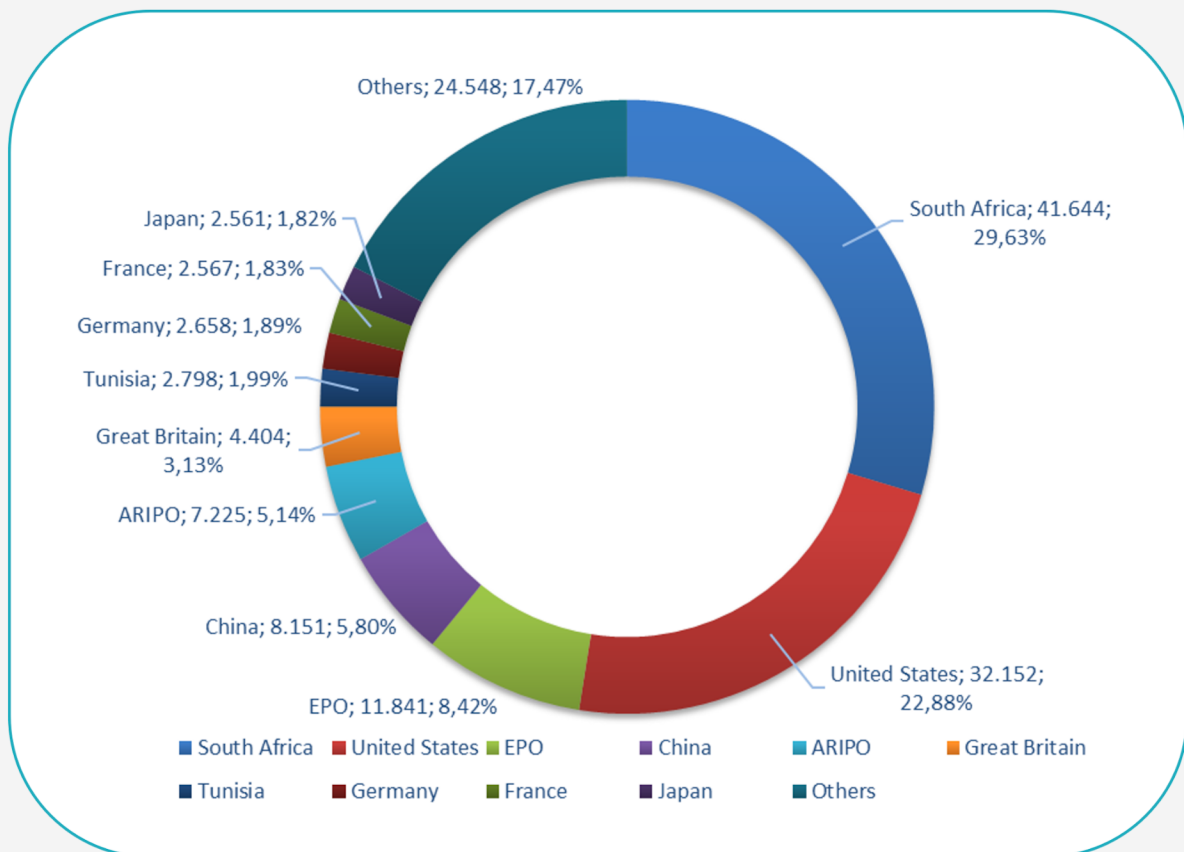


Figure 4 Top regions of origin

In terms of target markets, South Africa is the region with the highest volume of patent applications in the African region, with a patent volume several times that of other patent offices, including the two major African patent organizations, ARIPO and OAPI (as shown in [Figure 5](#)). Obviously, the main reason for this phenomenon is that South Africa is the most developed country in Africa.

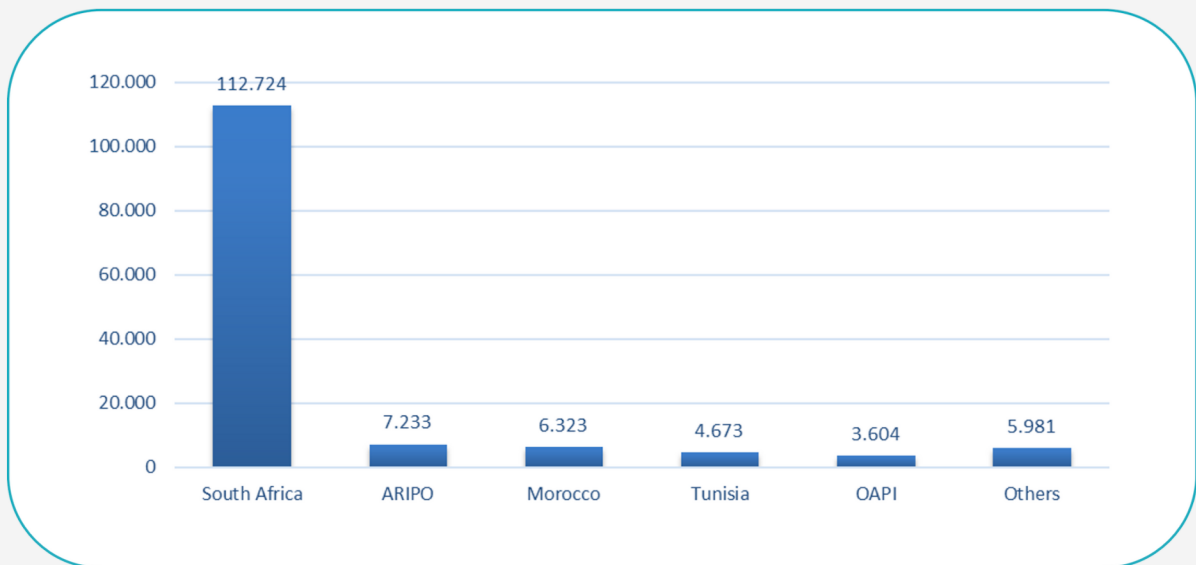


Figure 5 Top regions of market

Part 3: Key Technologies

An analysis of the technological fields that Africa has applied for patents in the past decade found that the pharmaceutical and chemical fields have the most prominent patent volume, with most of the top 10 IPC classification numbers being related to these two fields (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

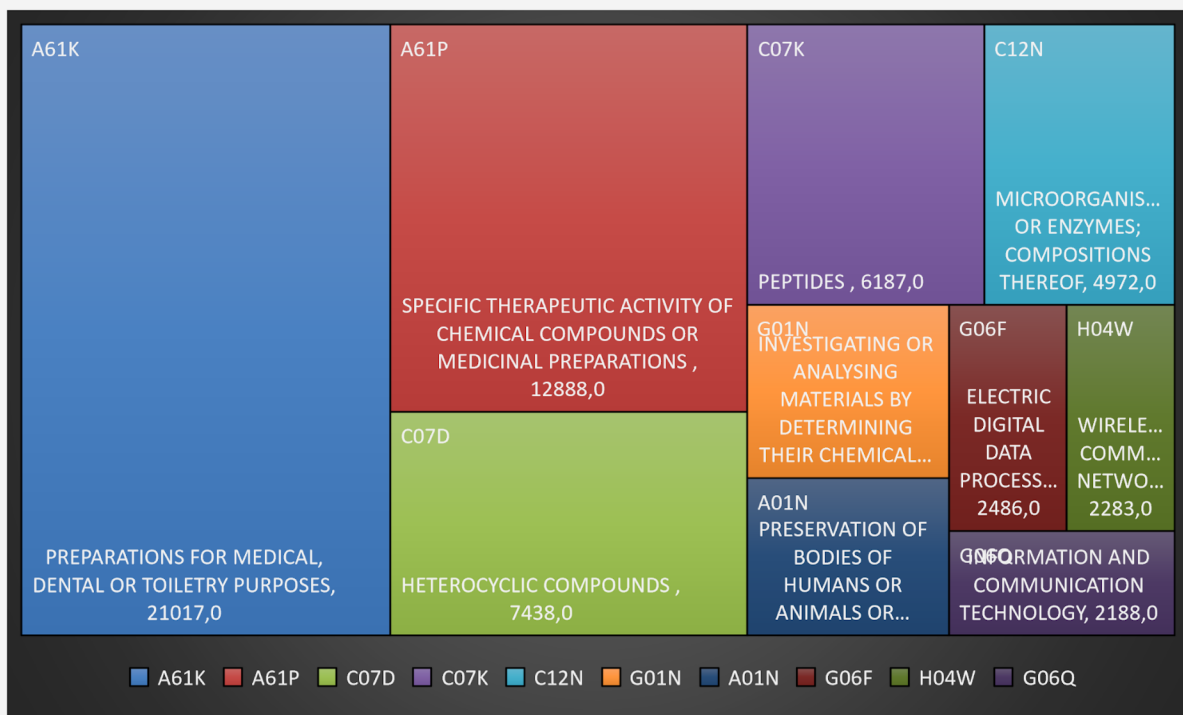


Figure 6 The top 10 IPC classification numbers

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

Among abroad patent applications, PUBL is the company with the most patent applications in Africa, followed by Unilever and Colgate. Meanwhile, all of the top ten applicants come from other continents, and many are companies engaged in the pharmaceutical and fast-moving consumer goods industries (as shown in [Figure 7](#)).

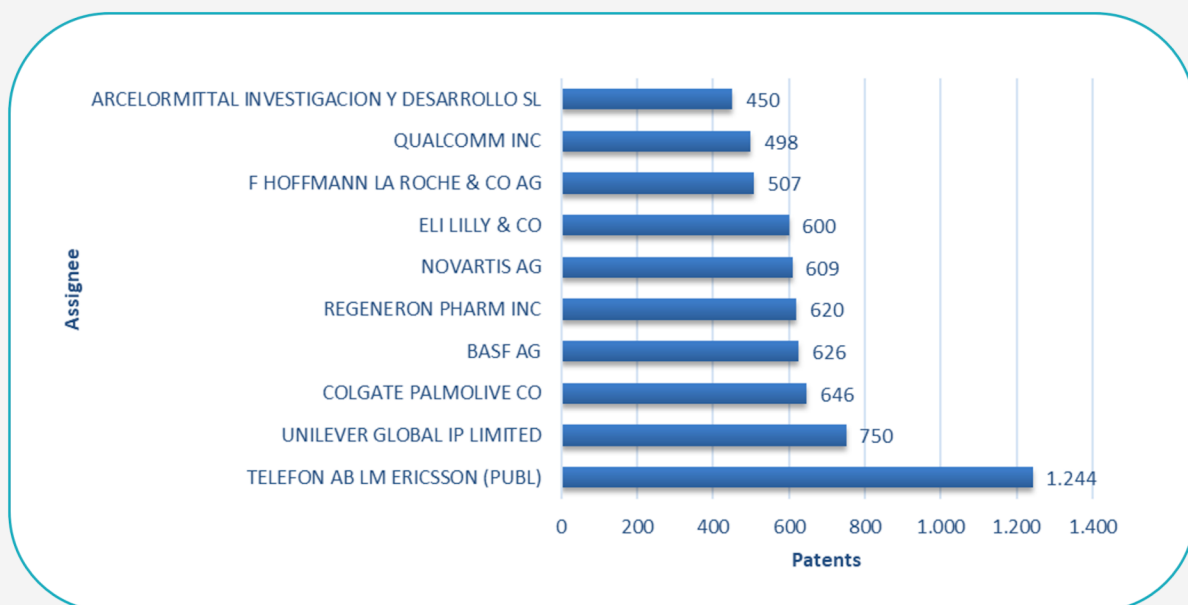


Figure 7 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Conclusion

Currently, although the patent market in Africa has received some attention, the overall volume of patents applied for in Africa by both local and other continents is still very low, and the potential of the entire patent market needs to be further explored.

Note: All numbers used and statements made in this report are indicative and for information purposes only. No warranty or liability is given nor accepted for anything published in this report.

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