



# Localising Intellectual Property

for Uganda's Digital Economy & Using  
Technology as a Tool for Preservation  
of Cultural Heritage



## CONVENER'S PROFILE

KTA Advocates is an award-winning law firm at the forefront of legal innovation in Uganda. Recognized by IFLR, ranked by WTR1000 and Chambers and Partners, we specialize in technology, media, telecommunications, and intellectual property (IP). Our expertise extends to commercial law and dispute resolution, providing comprehensive legal solutions across various sectors.

KTA has established itself as a leading IP and technology law firm in Uganda. We serve a diverse clientele, including industry leaders in banking, e-commerce, sports, entertainment, fintech, tourism, telecommunications, and more. Our reach extends to the content creation, music, publishing, and sustainability sectors

Our core values – being dependable, pragmatic innovative, and bold– drive everything we do. These same values are woven into the fabric of the KTA Annual Symposium, a platform designed to foster thought leadership and critical discussions on intellectual property and technology in Uganda



## ABOUT THE KTA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

The KTA Annual Symposium embodies the spirit of Ubuntu – “I am because you are.” We recognize that laws, policies, and regulations function best when they are shaped and influenced by the people they are intended to serve.

Each year, the Symposium convenes policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders to discuss how Uganda can leverage IP and technology to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We engage in critical discussions on how to advance development and growth within various industries, with a particular focus on the role of intellectual property (IP).

The Symposium goes beyond discussion. We actively equip industry players with a deeper understanding of IP and its practical application within their fields.

For more on the KTA Annual Symposium, please visit our website at <https://www.symposium-iptech.com/>



## BACKGROUND

The concept underlying intellectual property (IP) is the protection and commercialization of one's ingenuity. This is premised on the theory that those who innovate and create should be rewarded. In turn, the public benefits from this ingenuity as it lays the building blocks for further innovation and creativity.

Recognizing crucial role IP plays in development, Uganda, a least developed country aiming to transform from peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years adopted the National Intellectual Property Policy in 2019. This policy aims to build a robust IP ecosystem that fuels innovation and creativity, driving sustainable development.

The Policy focuses on creating an IP infrastructure that supports creativity, developing skilled professionals for the IP sector, and encouraging utilization of the IP system. Significant progress has been made in this regard as trademark registrations have steadily increased, from an average of 1,626 in 2019 to 2,186 in 2022.

Despite the progress, the level of innovation and creative outputs in Uganda remains relatively low compared to other developing nations such as Kenya. In the 2023 Global Innovation Index (GII), Kenya ranked 100<sup>th</sup> out of 132 economies featured in GI 2023, while Uganda stood at 121<sup>st</sup>, with Uganda performing below the regional average in Creative outputs.

This challenge is not unique to Uganda. Least developed countries (LDCs) contribute a small fraction of global IP applications. A United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report suggests that LDCs need to tailor their IP strategies to their specific needs, development stages, and economic structures. The report emphasizes exploring alternative IP rights suited to LDC contexts, such as those related to traditional knowledge and agriculture. Additionally, considering the large informal sector in LDCs, more flexible and less formal IP protection mechanisms could be explored.

This year's symposium will explore how Uganda can strengthen its IP approach by "localizing" it to Uganda's needs and realities, particularly in the digital era. The event will delve into how Uganda's IP strategy can leverage key sectors like art, music, literature, culture, and the informal sector.

A key focus will be on how IP and technology can be harnessed to preserve Uganda's rich cultural heritage. In this vein, the Symposium will host a digital art exhibition which will be a digitized version of the cultural museum (Eriijukiro) found at the Igongo Cultural Center, Mbarara.

This will showcase a collection of art, crafts and photos that represent norms, customs, traditions and the history of the people of Southwestern Uganda.

In line with the theme, we will also examine how legal frameworks can be used to facilitate cultural preservation and the how to address the socio-economic complexities that may emanate this.

The three-day symposium is set to take place from the 23rd to the 25th of October and will include roundtable discussions and panel discussions on topics exploring how we can align IP with Uganda's creative and technological fields and adapting IP systems for these sectors.

While the concept of traditional IP might seem distant for many Ugandans, the symposium aims to bridge this gap. Through this Symposium, we seek to create a supportive environment where innovation and creativity can flourish in the digital space.

This would entail:

- Developing IP laws and regulations that are relevant to the Ugandan context, considering factors like traditional knowledge, local creative industries, and the digital landscape.
- Creating awareness and education programs to inform creators and innovators in Uganda about IP rights and how to utilize them effectively in the digital economy.
- Establishing efficient and accessible IP registration systems that cater to the needs of Ugandan creators and businesses.
- Addressing specific challenges faced by Ugandans in protecting and commercializing their intellectual property online.

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# OBJECTIVES

1. To examine how intellectual property rights can be contextualized for Uganda's realities.
2. To explore how intellectual property and technology can be used as a tool to preserve cultural heritage.
3. To digitize the cultural artifacts housed at the cultural museum (Eriijukiro) found at the Igongo Cultural Center, Mbarara. To lobby for a law to protect and preserve Uganda's cultural heritage.
4. To expound on the challenges faced by creatives in protecting and commercializing their creations and understanding how policy and regulations can address these challenges.
5. To examine Uganda's policy approach towards using intellectual property to support innovation in Uganda and evaluate how effective it has been.
6. To sensitize creators and innovators on how they can protect and commercialize their intellectual property rights in the digital era.

# DAY ONE

23rd October, 2024

Location: UNIPOD Makerere University

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSONNEL
8:00-8:30 am	Registration	<b>Convener (KTA Annual Symposium)</b>
8: 30 – 8:45 am	Starting the Conversation	<b>Dr. Monica Musenero</b> , Minister, Science Technology and Innovation
8:45 am -9:20 am	<b>Sympo Convos:</b>  Strategic Policy Interventions to Accelerate the Growth of Uganda's Science, Technology, and Innovation Sectors	<b>Kenneth Muhangi</b> , Partner, KTA Advocates- Host  <b>Vwede-Obahor Nwanneakolam</b> -UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Resident Representative for Uganda
9:20am – 9:30am	Coffee Break	Wild Coffee Bar
9:30am -11:30am	<b>World Café: A Look at Uganda's National Intellectual Property Policy Five Years Later</b>  Uganda's IP policy aims to achieve several goals,	<b>Table 1: Pharmaceuticals</b>  1. <b>Dr. Mulumba Moses</b> , Afyannahiki -Host  2. <b>Dr. Gabriel Opolot</b> ,

including promoting IP-driven Indigenous technology development and commercialization and increasing the utilization of the IP registration system. This panel will discuss the policy's successes so far, as well as gaps and areas for improvement, specifically in the era of digitization and artificial intelligence.

Participants will be divided into smaller groups, each facilitated by a table host.

Table hosts will use guiding questions to stimulate discussion on the selected topics.

Overall objective will be to develop a white paper on how Uganda can improve its Global Innovation Index position.

National Council of Traditional Healers Associations (NACOTHA)

3. **Dr. Andrew Kambugu**, Infectious Diseases Institute
4. **Hon.Dr.Jane Ruth Aceng**, Ministry of Health
5. **Brenda Nakazibwe**, Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat
6. **Representative**, World Intellectual Property Organisation

Table 2: **Manufacturing and Industry**

1. **Dr.Anthony Kakooza ,Byenkya &Kihika** Advocates (**Host**)
2. **Representative**, National Social Security Fund
3. Hon.David Bahati, Ministry of Trade
4. **Makerere University**, Intellectual Property Management Committee
5. **Engineer James Kasigwa**, Executive Director Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)
6. **Paul Musasizi**, Chief Executive officer Kiira Motors Corporation

7. **Prof. William Bazeyo**,  
Resilient Africa Network

Table 3 **Geographical Indications and Agriculture**

1. **Representative**, National Agriculture Research Organisation
2. **Representative**, Presidential Initiative for Banana Industry Development
3. **Joseph Nkandu** - Executive Director, National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE)
4. **Carol Kyazze** – Executive Director, Axiom Zorn
5. **Agaba Gilbert**, Director Intellectual Property, Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)
6. **Edwin Tabaro**, Managing Partner KTA Advocates (Host)

Table 4: **Creative Technology**

1. **CK Japeth** – Co Founder Innovation Village
2. **Aminah Zawedde**,  
**Permanent Secretary**,

		<p>Ministry of ICT &amp; National Guidance</p> <p>3. <b>Janet Kataaha Museveni</b>, Minister of Education and Sports</p> <p>4. <b>Representative</b>, DFCU Bank</p> <p>5. <b>Noah Mesfin</b>, Venture Architect Starthub Africa</p> <p>6. <b>Geoffrey Mutabaazi</b>, Co-founder and CEO Karaa <b>(Host)</b></p>
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11:30 am- 11:45am	<p><b>Launch of Innovator's Guide and Roadmap</b></p>	<p><b>Mercy.K. Kainobwiso</b> - Registrar General, Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) <b>Anza Village,</b></p> <p><b>Cathrine Akankwasa</b>, Practice Head, Technology, Media, Telecommunications, KTA Advocates.</p>
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11:50am -12:30pm	<b>Recap of Day 1 (Infographic)</b>	Kashushu
	<b>Closing remarks</b>	Led by Kenneth Muhangi
13:00pm	<b>Networking and Departure at will</b>	

## DAY TWO

24th October, 2024

Location: MCI Hub

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSONNEL
8:00am- 9:00am	Registration	Convener
	Recap of Day 1	KTA Advocates
9:00am-9:15am	<b>Starting the Conversation</b>  “Uganda Communications Commission's role in Nurturing the Creative Economy.”	George William Nyombi Thembo, <b>Executive Director of Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)</b>
9:15am-10:15am	<b>Sympo Conversation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Story of the Ugandan Creative:</b></li> </ul> <b>Ugandan Creatives and the Global Market:</b> Examining the challenges and opportunities for Ugandan creatives to gain international recognition.	<b>Moderated and Curated by British Council.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Daudi Karungi</b>, Afriart Gallery</li> <li><b>Natasha Karungi</b>- Visual Artist</li> <li><b>Goretti Kyomuhendo</b>, - Author</li> <li><b>Hon. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi</b>, Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs</li> </ol>

10:15am -10:30am

Documentary “**The Heart behind the Art**”

Led by Daphne.R. Uwimana, **Lead Coordinator Annual KTA Symposium.**

Led by NRG Radio

10:30 am- 11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00am- 12:00pm

**World Café: From Canvas to Commerce: Navigating IP in Uganda's Arts Industry**

This discussion will foster a crucial dialogue between people in Uganda's diverse arts industry and policymakers on the effectiveness of the current intellectual property (IP) legal framework in the arts industry, with specific attention to navigating IP challenges in the digital era.

It will also discuss how Uganda can formulate an effective, well-informed policy on the creative economy.

**Table 1: Music**

1. **Racheal Magoola**, Member of Parliament
2. **Geoffrey Ekongot**, Co-Chief Executive officer, Black Canvas Media
3. **Julius Kyazze**, Chief Executive officer, Swangz Avenue
4. **Rasheeda Nalumoso**, Program Manager Creative Economy, SSA Arts, British Council

Participants will engage in small group discussions, share insights, and generate innovative solutions to successfully navigate the IP Industry.

Participants will be divided into smaller groups, each facilitated by a Table Host.

Table Hosts will use guiding questions to stimulate discussion on the selected topics.

5. **Edirisah Musuuza,**  
Presidential senior  
advisor on creatives

#### Table 2: Film

1. **Representative,**  
Uganda  
Communications  
Commissions  
Department
2. **Brian Mulondo,**  
Head of Local  
Content Multichoice  
Group **(Host)**
3. **Loukman Ali,** Film  
Director
4. **Alex Mukulu,**  
Lecturer Makerere  
University
5. **Raymond Malinga,**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Creatures  
Animation studio

#### Table 3: Fashion

1. **Brian Ahumuza,**  
Founder Abryanz  
Fashions
2. **Martin Nkundwe,**  
Little Red Curious  
**(Host)**
3. **Dr. Akampumuza  
Obed,** Lecturer  
Makerere University
4. **Monica Kiryowa**  
,IGC Fashion House



		<p><b>5. Guia Martinotti,</b> Founder CEO, Noor Tribe.</p> <p><b>Table 4: <u>Content Creators</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Fiona Kemigisha,</b> Khama Digital</p> <p><b>2. Melvin Ahumuza,</b> MJP Podcast</p> <p><b>3. Moses Jr. Kiboneka,</b> Uncle Mo</p> <p><b>4. Eugene Kavuma,</b> Head Special Projects Next Media</p>
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<b>12:00pm- 12:25pm</b>	Poetic recap of day 2	Mitch Isabirye
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<b>12:30pm</b>	Closing remarks	
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## DAY THREE

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Location: Design Quarter



Time	Activity	Personnel
1:00 pm- 2:00pm	Registration	Convener
	<b>Recap of Day 1 and Day2</b>	KTA Advocates
2:00pm -2:10pm	<b>Keynote Remarks</b>	Olasapo Shashore,
2:15pm-3:15pm	<p><b>Sympo Convos Session</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Education in the Digital Age:</b> Preserving Identity for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development through Technology and Intellectual Property</p> <p>This theme highlights the critical role cultural education plays in maintaining identity and its impact on social and economic development.</p> <p>It also explores how technology and intellectual property can be leveraged to protect and preserve cultural heritage. <b>Key points could include:</b></p> <p>The significance of cultural identity in shaping individual and community participation in socio-economic activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How cultural education fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens social cohesion, which is crucial for economic development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Babra Babwetera, Executive Director, Cross Culture Foundation Uganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Stephen Rwangyeezi, <b>Founder Ndere Cultural Centre.</b></li> <li>• Elizabeth Kyazike, <b>Associate Professor School of Humanities Kyambogo</b></li> <li>• Dr. Tibesesa Ruth , <b>Lecturer Kabale University</b></li> <li>• <b>Sr. Estalina Namutebi</b></li> <li>• Hon.Justice Dr Patrick Tabaro , <b>Retired Judge ,Consultant KTA Advocates</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The role of technology in promoting access to cultural education, particularly for younger generations, ensuring cultural continuity.</li> <li>- Intellectual property as a tool for safeguarding cultural expressions and promoting innovation within local economies.</li> <li>- Case studies on how the preservation of cultural heritage has contributed to local and national development, particularly in tourism, arts, and creative industries.</li> <li>- The need for a cultural policy, dedicated ministry for cultural heritage</li> </ul>	
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3:15pm- 3:30pm	<p><b>Launch of Echoes of our Ancestors: A Digital Exploration of Uganda's Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>A digital exhibition showcasing a variety of cultural artifacts will feature a virtual reality version of the cultural museum (Eriijukiro) at the Igongo Cultural Center, Mbarara.</p> <p>The exhibition will also include a feature on the modern-age-Ugandan culture emanating from local artists who use digital platforms to showcase and commercialize their creations.</p>	<p><b>Launch of Exhibition by German High Commissioner to Uganda, Matthias Schauer</b></p> <p><b>Exhibitors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natasha Karungi (Kashushu)</li> <li>2. Najjuma's House</li> </ol> <p>KTA Advocates host</p>
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3:30pm -4:00 pm	<p><b>The Utility of Foreign Policy in Cultural Preservation: An Introduction to the United States State Department's global Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) program</b></p>	<p><b>William W. Popp, US Ambassador to Uganda</b></p>
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**4:00 pm- 5:30pm**

**KAS Identify Talk:**

**The Role of Kingdoms in Policy and Development in Uganda: A Roundtable Discussion**

**Hosted by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung**

**5:30 pm**

**Recap entire symposium**

**Kenneth Muhangi, Partner  
KTA Advocates**

**Closing remarks**

**Edwin Tabaro , Managing  
Partner ,KTA Advocates**

**5:45 pm**

**LAUNCH OF THE SYMPOSIUM BASKET FUND LED BY KENNETH MUHANGI , PARTNER KTA ADVOCATES**



# **KTA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**