PROJECT QUESTION

To what degree are human rights taken into consideration in the intellectual property laws and policies of member countries, with respect to access to knowledge, and access to medicine?

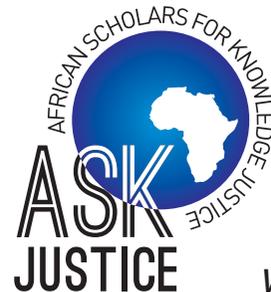## PROJECT COUNTRIES

UGANDA
KENYA
BOTSWANA
SOUTH AFRICA

GOALS

The ASK Justice project seeks to contribute to positive policy change to increase access to medicine (A2M) and access to knowledge (A2K). To this end, ASK Justice aims to build a strong network of academics at Southern and East African universities that collaboratively engages in research, teaching and outreach activities at the interface between human rights and intellectual property (IP) laws and policies. The network analyses the impact of IP on access to learning materials and access to medicines through a human rights lens; creates capacity for participating scholars to co-create and adapt IP and human rights curricula; engages with relevant international, regional and domestic policymaking bodies; provides support and training to civil society actors; and contributes to public discourse on policy and law reform.
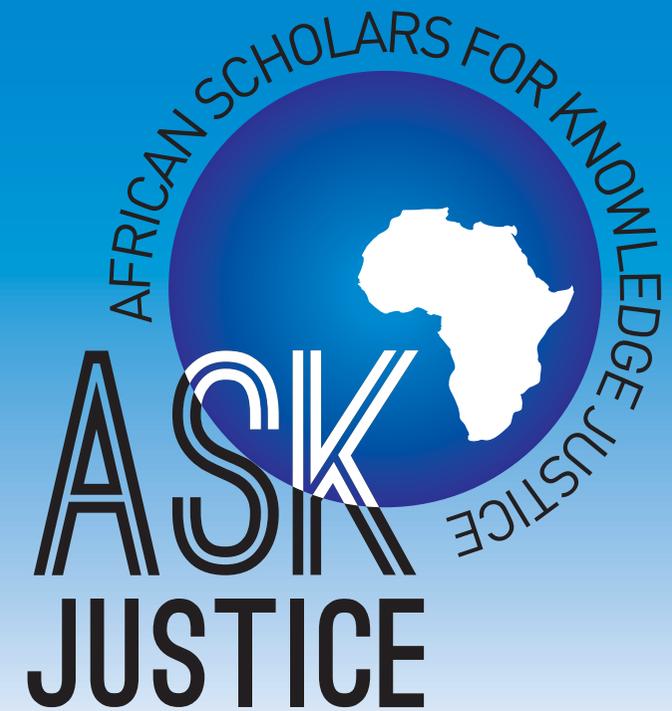
NETWORK UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

University of Zululand

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA · UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Strathmore University Law School

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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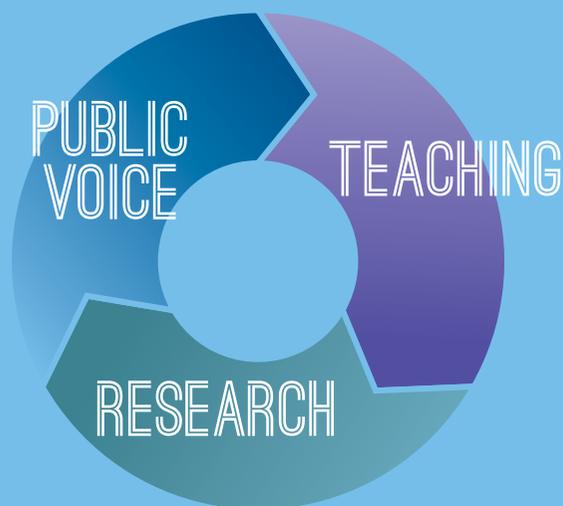
PROJECT STRUCTURE

Network members are involved in three distinct but overlapping activities: Policy Research; Public Voice and Teaching. Faculty involved in Policy Research examine if and to what extent human rights were considered in IP law and policymaking processes in the four study countries in order to identify commonalities and differences.

Those involved in the ASK Justice Teaching component will create the resources necessary to assist not only network members but other similarly situated scholars to teach issues at the intersection of human rights and IP. Such resources include primers for IP and human rights scholars, curriculum review tools and a pilot course curriculum for a course on IP and human rights (with Replication Toolkit).

Network members involved in the Public Voice aspect of ASK Justice will use a variety of offline and online distribution channels to ensure that the project's research findings and outputs from the Teaching component are widely and openly shared with relevant stakeholders such as higher education institutions and civil society organisations, as well as the general public.

HUMAN RIGHTS

A2K
Access to Knowledge

A2M
Access to Medicines

Network of experts researching and teaching IP law and policy frameworks in four countries, widely and vocally championing for change

PUBLIC VOICE

TEACHING

RESEARCH

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Policy research**
  - Equip civil society with research-based HR analyses of IP reform processes in the targeted African countries, including evolving evaluation criteria and lessons learned
  - Integrate analyses into teaching resources being developed in parallel.
- **Teaching**
  African educators can easily:
  - Evaluate degree and course curricula for inclusion of issues at the intersection of IP and HR
  - Introduce issues of IP into existing courses on HR and vice versa
  - Create or modify courses to include issues at the intersection of IP and HR.
- **Public voice**
  Integrate the analysis and arguments generated by the project into the knowledge bases of higher education institutions (HEIs) and civil society organisations.

KEY PARTNERS

- Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) Network
- Universities represented
- Faculty in other disciplines
- Civil society organisations.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- National government representatives and officials responsible for IP policy
- Intergovernmental organizations for IP, e.g. ARIPO, OAPI, WIPO
- Intergovernmental organisations for Human Rights, e.g. the UNHCHR & Special Rapporteurs, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- IP and Human Rights Scholars in sub-Saharan Africa
- Students who take IP and human rights courses.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Three fellowships are being awarded with the aim of developing the core network further, to interest and involve young and promising students, and to promote a sub-network of enthusiasts.

ASK JUSTICE ONLINE

www.askjustice.org

ASKJustice @AfricanIP