

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE

2005 SPECIAL 301

SPECIAL MENTION

NIGERIA

Sound recording piracy is at a level of approximately 85% in Nigeria. Though a copyright law was enacted in 1992, there is little cooperation between government agencies, including law enforcement, toward implementation of the law.

There has been a proliferation of optical disc manufacturing plants in Nigeria, some of which have moved to Nigeria from Asia and operate to supply Central and Western Africa. In addition, pirates have completely overrun the book market, due in part to the government's decision in 2003 to cut all funding for universities' and libraries' purchases of these materials. The port of Lagos is inadequately policed against piracy and has become a major transshipment site for pirated product to enter Nigeria and nearby countries. The Nigerian government should increase enforcement—including the provision of increased resources, ensuring that cases go to trial and result in judgment. Additionally, the government should impose stiffer penalties, crack down on book piracy and provide adequately for legitimate purchase of academic materials. The government should likewise regulate the OD plants, and make the use of SID codes mandatory on all discs produced and sold in Nigeria.

The Nigerian National Copyright Administration (NCC) has responsibility in Nigeria for anti-piracy activities, and the Nigeria Customs Service, as the nation's gateway police, has a significant role to play in anti-piracy enforcement. There needs to be better coordination between these two enforcement entities.