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Can John as a Ghanaian claim copyright to his work in Nigeria. The Answer to the legal issue is yes.

The basis for that is that, the general rule as regards copyright relating to foreigners is that by virtue of section 5(1) of the Copyright act, organizations which have various countries as members, like ECOWAS AND OAU, citizens of a member state can claim copyright in another member state. Microsoft Corp v Franke Associates Ltd Seeing as both Nigeria and Ghana are member states of ECOWAS, John can choose to pursue copyright for his work. This alone does not guarantee that John's work is eligible for copyright, there are some other factors which John must prove which are as follows Originality; the basis of this requirement is that the work originated from the author's independent intellect, sufficient time, skill, effort, judgement to give it an original character. On this basis, John's work is eligible for copyright as he took sufficient time to read Chimaamanda's book to formulate his own. It took his intellectual create his work. He did copy the work of the author. See the case of LadrokeFootball Ltd v William Hill football Ltd

fixation as contained in section 1(2)(b) stipulates that a work will not be eligible for copyright unless it is put in a fixed medium through which the ideas of the author can be expressed. In this case, John had put his idea of his book on the recording. So John's work satisfies this requirement for copyright. See case of Anikulapo Kuti v Iselitalks

Lastly, the issue of a qualifying author. For a foreigner to qualify for copyright in Nigeria, he or she has to have a connection with Nigeria. This could be either by Domicile of the author, place of first publication, Government works, International Agreements the author, John does not satisfy any of the first three scenarios but his case falls under International Agreements, which makes him eligible for copyright in Nigeria by virtue of section 5(1), as he is a citizen of a country which is member state of ECOWAS, seeking copyright in another member state. see the case of Francis Day v Hunter & Fredman and co.

To conclude, John's work satisfies all the requirements to claim copyright, legal advice to John will be that he can claim copyright over his work.