### October 2023 EAGLE Uganda Activity Report

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

The report herein covers the period from 01st – 31st October 2023. With focus on the projects core goal of deterring wildlife crime , major activities in the line of investigations have been at 80% by 1 candidate on test.

The project emphasizes on proactivity and creativity therefore all team members flexibility and aggressiveness is expected in all departments.

1. **INVESTIGATIONS**

The search for good investigators continues with several meetings with potential recommenders and interviews conducted but with most candidates not meeting the projects specified qualities. There is need to re-strategize and adopt new recruitment methods for example recruitment through the network branches with motive of sending to Uganda, the job rotation/swapping program (investigators from the branch networks are sent to Uganda for the same role).

The project has adopted the use of networking with persons with information who are willing to be informants to aid the project goals. However regardless of the hiccup, investigations have been on-going at 80% field engagements with 1 candidates on test with some good leading information, photos of contraband shared and of different animal species but have not come close to any operation

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| **INVESTIGATION INDICATORS** |
| **# of investigations** | **# of investigations that lead to operations** |  |
| **15** | **0** |  |

1. **OPERATIONS**

No operations recorded and Jane Akello (Head of Investigations & Operations) was discontinued due to unavoidable circumstance.

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| **OPERATION INDICATORS** |
| **# of operations** | **# of operations that lead to arrests** | **# suspect traffickers arrested** | **Contraband (specify units)** |
| **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |

1. **LEGAL**

The report outlines all the activities that were carried out in the month of October by the

legal department with an explanation on what each activity entailed as herein below;

* **Conducted research on wildlife cases;**

The legal department conducted research on various concluded cases by the Standards, Utilities and Wildlife court and various punishments were given to the offenders in line with the Wildlife Act, 2019. Example of said cases are herein.

Uganda V Mukasa Muhamood who was found with ivory weighing 14.5 kilograms and was sentenced to twelve (12) months considering the period spent on remand in jail.

Uganda v Zubair Alahi Dramadri and Byarugaba Achileo CRB-1060/2019. The facts of this case are that the accused persons were arrested at Yowa Guest House, Nakulabye in Kampala district with 99.16 kilograms of pangolin scales valued at UGX 1,119,714,720 (Uganda shillings one billion one hundred and nineteen million seven hundred and fourteen thousand, seven hundred and twenty shillings) and were sentenced on their plea of guilty to six years imprisonment.

* **Attended court sessions**

The legal team attended court to follow up on different cases and some of the cases included;

***1. Uganda V Mugisha Johnson***

In this case, the accused person applied for bail and the matter was up for hearing of the bail application. The accused was granted a non cash bond of UGX 100,000,000/= and each surety a non cash bond.

***2. Uganda V Mujuni Edward alias Hashimu Baringano***

The matter was up for hearing the prosecution case. The accused was found in possession of 70 kilograms of ivory at Super motel in Kanungu. The prosecution presented witnesses who were able to prove that the accused was indeed in possession of the ivory and they closed their case. The matter was adjourned to 18th October 2023 and then to 1st November 2023.

***3. Uganda V Geoffrey Lukwago and Wilber Nsambu***

The matter was up for mention on 18th November 2023. However, the magistrate was on leave and the matter was adjourned to 14th November 2023.

* ***Conducted a jail visit***

The jail visit was carried out on Twesigye Yusan who was found in illegal possession of ivory and was taken to Kiira police station and later brought to court and currently on remand at Kampala remand prison.

* ***Hotel search.***

The legal candidates carried out hotel searches on different hotels. The purpose of the hotel search is to establish a hotel that would be suitable for a possible operation. The concluded hotel was Front page hotel on Kampala-Entebbe Road.

* ***Working on 3 docs;***

The legal candidates drafted the 3 docs which entailed a simulation of an investigation on

Ssalongo &amp; Twinomujuni (the targets) who were found in possession of 90 kilograms of pangolin scales priced at $60. The three docs highlight the process of operation to ensure that there is a smooth operation and arrest of the wildlife traffickers.

* ***Carried out further research;***

The legal department also carried out legal research on the plea taking procedures during trial and the way forward when an accused changes his plea during hearing. The purpose of the research is to assess whether the plea process provides equitable access to justice for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic status or background.

The legal department also looked at the process and circumstances under which electronic evidence is admissible in wildlife criminal cases under the Electronic Transactions Act and the case of Uganda V Abraham Angura and 3 others. The purpose of this research is to establish the procedures and criteria for verifying the authenticity and integrity of electronic evidence, preventing tampering and ensuring reliability.

The legal department also carried out research on the factors that lead to a case being dismissed for want of prosecution and its legal effects. The purpose of the research is to identify shortcomings in the legal process that contribute to such dismissals and to recommend procedural improvements to reduce their occurrence.

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| **LEGAL INDICATORS** |
| **# of court prosecutions** | **Maximum sentence given** | **# of cases followed** | **# hearings visited** | **# jail visits** |
| **Court of first instance** | **Appeal court** |
| **16** | **0** | **0** | **16** | **16** | **0** |

1. **MEDIA**

Department has not been operational.

**6.MANAGEMENT**

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| **MANAGEMENT INDICATORS** |
| **# investigators on test** | **1** |
| **# legal advisors on test** | **1** |
| **# advocates on test** | **0** |
| **# media journalists on test** | **0** |
| **# accountants on test** | **0** |
| **# internal trainings** | **0** |
| **# external trainings** | **0** |

* The Assistant Coordinator followed up on the Annual filing with the URSB procedure which should as well facilitate the renewal of the projects operational permit which expired on 18th October 2023. The process still awaits approval.
* September ICS investigations and Field Investigation reports were compiled and submitted to CCU.
* September ICS legal was compiled and submitted to CCU
* EAGLE Uganda’s Head of Operations and Investigations was suspended due to unavoidable circumstances.
* Evaluation meetings were held with a focus on challenges encountered in the field, investigations strategy, improvement in performance, simulation and how to control and trust building, with all team members in attendance.
* The recruitment process has been ongoing with several meetings held with potential recommenders, interviews conducted with several candidates not meeting the required qualifications.
* The projects mandatory monthly reports to include the September financial and donor report, activity report, were submitted to the relevant offices.
* Filing, submission and payment of government taxes and subscription (Uganda Revenue Authority and National Social Security Fund) for the month of September was duly done..
* General repairs and maintenance on 2 office laptops for the management and legal department were worked on after several issues arising.
* The November grants requests budget was submitted to aid the fund request process.
* A last batch of scanned documents for auditing were shared with the Audit firm with the concerned EAGLE personnel’s in copy.
* An EAGLE Uganda former legal advisor who left for further studies made contact having completed her studies and is to resume working in the month of November 2023.
* The Assistant coordinator continues to improve on the 3 docs and standard templates were shared to aid the team in improving.
1. **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

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| **EXTERNAL RELATIONS INDICATORS** |
| **# of external meetings**  | 0 |
| **# of requests for collaboration or support** | 0 |
| **# follow-up meetings related to ongoing agreements/ collaborations** | 0 |
| **# meetings to renew agreements/ collaborations** | 0 |
| **# EAGLE trainings requested from external parties**  | 0 |
| **# EAGLE trainings carried out for external parties** | 0 |
| **# EAGLE presentations requested from external parties** | 0 |
| **# EAGLE presentations carried out for others** | 0 |