### November 2023 EAGLE Uganda Activity Report

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

The report herein covers the period from 01st – 30th November 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.

Key areas that call for immediate attention and action :

* **Project to process and finalize the process of the operational permit renewal which has several compliance strings attached from key government agencies that work directly on the monitoring of NGO’s in Uganda, these agencies include the FIA (Financial Intelligence Authority), URSB (Uganda Registration services Bureau- Beneficial Owners database) and the PDPO (Personal Data Protection Office).**
* **The Project should identify an international audit firm(certified to work in Uganda) that can audit our financial reports with a motive of providing audit reports that are recognized by the ICPAU (Institute of Certified Public Accountants) plus any other government agency.**
1. **INVESTIGATIONS**

The search for good investigators continued with a follow-up on potential recommenders. The month ended with fewer interviews conducted with 80% of the 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 a motive of sending to Uganda, implement the job rotation/swapping program (investigators from the branch networks are sent to Uganda for the same role for a specified period of time).

We however were able to identify one candidate who will start his test period in the month of December 2023.

The project has undertaken to work with informants as way to expand its scope of gathering information relevant and aligned to the goals and objectives of the project .

Investigations have been on-going at 80% field engagements with 1 candidate on test with leading information, photos of contraband shared and of different animal species that will lead to an operation in the long run.

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| **INVESTIGATION INDICATORS** |
| **# of investigations** | **# of investigations that lead to operations** |  |
| **17** | **0** |  |

1. **OPERATIONS**

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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 November by the legal department with an explanation of each endeavor as herein below,

* The legal department conducted legal 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. Some of the cases that were researched

 on include;

**Uganda V Kuziamoe Lotwang Joseph**

The facts of this case are that the accused was found in possession of two whole pieces of raw ivory weighing 20.76kgs without a valid wildlife user right at Napeikodo in Kabong district. However, the prosecution failed to prove that the accused was in possession of the ivory and the accused was found innocent.

**Uganda V Okumu Charles case no 0935 of 2020**

The brief facts of the case are that the accused was found in possession of pangolin

scales, hippopotamus teeth and tails, dry skin of Uganda kob, warthog, porcupine

spikes, python oil and hyena skull at Uribo village in Buliisa district. The accused was

convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

* The legal team attended court to follow up on different cases. The cases include;

**Uganda V Yasin Mugerwa**

In this case, the accused person applied for bail and the matter was up for hearing of

the bail application. The accused was granted bail on condition that the accused pays

shs.1, 000,000/= (one million Uganda shillings) and each surety to present a non-cash

bond of 30,000,000/= (thirty million Uganda shillings). The sureties were also told to

leave their national IDs in court.

**Uganda V Bwarugaba Amos**

The matter was up for hearing the defense case. The facts of the case are that on the

20th of April 2023 at Bwera B Rutooma district, the accused had in his possession

33.3 kgs of ivory, a piece of hippopotamus skin, a piece of dried lion skin, a piece of

buffalo skin and hooves. The defense presented its case and the matter was adjourned

to 20th December 2023 for judgement.

**Uganda V Geoffrey Lukwago and Wilber Nsambu**

The matter was up for mention on 14th November 2023. The matter was then adjourned

to 10th January 2024 for the prosecution to present their last witness and close the

prosecution case.

* Jail visits are usually carried out to meet with incarcerated individuals in Luzira prison to

 follow up on their health, any other jail visits and any bribery attempts. The legal advisor

 on test went to Murchison bay to conduct jail visits on the following people:

**Swareng James :** Who was convicted together with 3 others for illegal possession of 6 pieces of ivory weighing 43.25kgs without a wildlife user right and was on remand awaiting sentencing. Swareng stated that they were trying to sell the ivory in Amudat and get some money. His health is okay and none of his family members has come to visit him.

**Ochan Mandela:** Was convicted and sentenced on 16th November 2023 for the offence of

illegal possession of pangolin scales on count one and conspiracy to commit an offence on count 2. He was sentenced to a fine of shs.700, 000/= (Seven hundred thousand shillings) or imprisonment for 15 months in default. However, the prisoner cleared his fine and released from prison when the legal advisor on test had gone to follow up on him.

* The legal advisors participated in the hotel searches on different hotels. The purpose of the

 hotel search is to establish a hotel that would be suitable for future possible operation.

* The legal team participated in the drafting of the 3 docs exercise using hypothetical cases and using shared templates from sister projects.
* Grace Mpagi, legal advisor who requested for a 1 year study leave in 2022 completed her studies and rejoined the team on 01st November 2023 upon completion of her BAR course at the Law Development Center in Kampala, Uganda.

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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** |
| **25** | **0** | **8,000,000/=****fine** | **25** | **25** | **2** |

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 Ass. Coordinated shared a list of some proposed international audit firms certified to conduct audit in Uganda, pending is a management decision on the way forward.
* October ICS investigations and Field Investigation reports were compiled and submitted to CCU.
* October ICS legal was compiled and submitted to CCU
* The project was honoured to host back Grace Mpagi for the legal advisory role after completing her studies at the Law Development Center.
* 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 few meetings held with potential recommenders, interviews conducted with several candidates not meeting the required qualifications.
* The projects mandatory monthly reports to include the October financial and donor report, activity report, were submitted to the respective offices.
* Filing, submission and payment of government taxes and subscription (Uganda Revenue Authority and National Social Security Fund) for the month of October was duly done..
* Following approved formats of 3docs shared by CCU for purposes of improvement, the team was able to compile an approved 3 docs for future use in preparation for operations.
* The 2022 draft audit report was shared by the auditors and the Ass. Coordinator has been responding to the relevant sections, a copy will be shared for the EAGLE Network Finance Manager to share her opinions.
* The Assistant coordinator continued with the supervision and overseeing of the team members, having relevant contracts renewed and compilation of an evaluation report for candidates whose volunteer contracts have ended and pending an administrative decision.
* The Assistant Coordinator compiled an excel template to help generate the standard income and expenditure reports in preparation for the audits.
* General fixtures and replacement on the guest room door was done after the access key was stuck and a carpenter attended to it.
* The Assistant coordinator followed on the filing for Local service Tax for the financial year 2023-2024 and computations were received and approved for clearance.
* The project reactivated a medical insurance scheme that was put on hold at the beginning of 2022, it now covers 1 team member but with prospects of having other members come on board in 2024.
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 |