



# AGA-AFRICA

AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER:

## ISSUE - JULY 2021

Illegal

In this issue, we highlight Illicit Wildlife Trafficking



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## FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the July 2021 Issue of the AGA-Africa Newsletter.

In partnership with the Financial Intelligence Centre – Zambia and the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), AGA-Africa held a three-day webinar on “Understanding the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Requirements for Virtual Assets (VAs) and Virtual Assets Service Providers (VASPs) for Regulators/Supervisors” from 12th - 14th July, 2021.

AGA-Africa also held a three-day workshop on “Prosecution of Electoral Offences” in conjunction with the National Prosecution Authority – Zambia from 13th - 15th July, 2021.

In collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Centre of South Africa, we held a two-day webinar on “Illegal Wildlife Trade: Follow the Money” from 22nd – 23rd July, 2021 and a one-day webinar dubbed “Beyond Covid: The Way Forward Regarding Data Privacy” in partnership with the Department of Mercantile Law, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria (UP) South Africa on 29th July, 2021.

AGA-Africa also hosted the Women Judges and Magistrates Mentorship Forum (Kenya) in conjunction with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) - Kenya Chapter) on 30th July, 2021.

We are grateful to Fulata Lilian Shawa-Siyuni, Director of Public Prosecution, Zambia, Mary Chirwa, Director General, Financial Intelligence Centre, Zambia, Adv. Xolisile Khanyile, Director, Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa, Joseph Jagada, Senior Official, Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group Secretariat (ESAAMLG), Prof. Jacolien Barnard, Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Pretoria, John Ukegbu, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, New Jersey Office, Northeast, New Jersey Legal Service (NNJLS), United States, Frances Nicotra, President, Hudson County Bar Association and Hon. Lady Justice Agnes Murgor, President, International Association of Women Judges, for their continued support and partnership.

We look forward to more exciting collaborations in the coming months geared towards combat transnational crimes on the continent.

Regards,

Markus Green ESQ.  
AGA-Africa, Board Member



**“We look forward to more exciting collaborations in the coming months geared towards stamping out to combat transnational crimes on the continent.”**

# Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Threat to Africa's Biodiversity

According to the African Wildlife Foundation, international trade in illicit wildlife products, like ivory and rhino horn, are turning Africa's iconic species into commodities. The highly resourced, very lucrative poaching industry continues to grow in high demand in different markets. As retail markets for illegal wildlife products grow, new financial, intelligence-sharing, and transportation avenues emerge.

Measures to help curb the spread of Covid-19 such as restrictions on movement, apparently have not deterred the illegal international wildlife trade. The demand for both traditional wildlife products (such as pangolin scales) and newer ones (such as elephant penises) have continued. Asia's massive appetite for Africa's wildlife has ensured that its illegal trade has continued unabated – even during lockdowns.

## Challenges

- Low detection of wildlife trafficking at exit and entry points.
- Wildlife criminals escape through weak legislation and uneven enforcement of laws.

## Solutions

- Action Plan - Deploying sniffer dogs to intercept smuggled wildlife products.
- Training - Streamlining wildlife crime prosecution, law enforcement, and investigation.
- Career Development - Ensuring canine evidence contributes to convictions.

## Combating Illicit Wildlife Trade in Africa, Q&A interview with Shawn Karns, Executive Director, Wildlife Investigators Training Alliance & Stephanie Durno Karns, Director of Operations, Wildlife Investigators Training Alliance



**Shawn Karns**  
Executive Director, Wildlife  
Investigators Training Alliance

• From your reading of the situation and research, what has been the state of the Illicit Wildlife Trade in Africa during Covid?

The full impacts of the Run a search of all COVID-19 pandemic on the illicit wildlife trade are not yet clear and are still evolving as the pandemic continues to affect the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored that wildlife trafficking threatens more than wildlife sustainability and ecological integrity; wildlife trafficking in-

creases the potential of zoonotic transmission of wildlife diseases, increasing the likelihood of future pandemics. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 75% of new infectious human diseases originate in animals.

Just like many of us, COVID-19 has increased wildlife traffickers' digital communications fluency. Transnational wildlife traffickers are increasingly using digital means for communication. Online platforms and encrypted messaging apps ensure secure communication, while specialist social media groups expand their ability to connect with broader markets and sources.

Some of the impacts of COVID-19 are intuitive; transport disruptions because of COVID-19 flight restrictions and heavily guarded land borders have led to dramatically decreased seizures of elephant ivory, rhino horn, and pangolin scales during 2020. The use of maritime transport to move illegal wildlife parts has become more common as air travel was disrupted during the pandemic. Many areas of Africa are economically dependent on tourism, and the collapse of the tourism industry has increased the reliance of rural peoples on wildlife for food.

Other impacts are less foreseeable and continue to evolve. China has increased enforcement of wildlife-related crimes dramatically since the first outbreak of COVID-19, due to the wildlife trafficking ban enacted in February 2020, and because of the increased international scrutiny of China's wildlife trade. Some wildlife products, like bear bile, are being advertised as "cures" for COVID, increasing pressures on already heavily-trafficked species. Although travel restrictions disrupted international transport of wildlife parts, poaching increased in areas with decreased enforcement patrols. These stockpiled wildlife products are awaiting a return to simpler transport routes and methods. Wildlife poachers and traffickers are inherently nimble and willing to adapt to changing conditions, so their activities have evolved with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **What countries are most affected and what are the most endangered animals?**

Increasing human development, deforestation, and illegal trade threaten most wildlife species in Africa, and the most endangered animals are also the most heavily trafficked. African elephant tusks, rhino horn, pangolin scales, live reptiles, big cats, and eels consistently have strong demand and fetch high prices. The rarity of a species increases the price that consumers are willing to pay for live animals, meat, ivory, scales, and horn. The most endangered African wildlife species include the Ethiopian wolf, all gorilla species, sea turtles, chimpanzees, bonobos, forest and savanna elephants, pangolins, rhinos, radiated tortoise, and African wild dogs.

Illegal wildlife is sourced from across Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a primary source for all four African pangolin species, but pangolin poaching is increasing in West African countries as well. Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, South Africa, and Zimbabwe all produce substantial amounts of illicit elephant ivory. South Africa supports over 75% of Africa's rhinos and is also a primary source of rhino horn used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Nigeria eclipsed Kenya in recent years to become a primary collection and transit country. Mozambique and Malawi also serve as transport hubs for wildlife poached across the continent and bound for Asian countries.

China and southeast Asia are the primary markets for much of the illicit wildlife products sourced in Africa. Although China used to be the most common destination for trafficked wildlife from Africa, seizures show that Viet Nam is a growing market.

The World Wildlife Crime Report 2020 from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that nearly 6,000 different wildlife species have been seized between 1999-2019. No single species is responsible for more than 5% of the total number of seizures, no single country was the source of more than 9% of the total number of seizures, and the traffickers came from roughly 150 different countries. This illustrates that nearly all wildlife species are involved in the illicit wildlife trade and no country can escape the threats to public health, security, and biodiversity.

- **What are some of the ways WITA through AGA-Africa has supported different law enforcement agencies in Africa to be able to tackle the cartels in the illicit wildlife trade?**

First of all, AGA-Africa is the most amazing partner and they have made multiple training events, speaking engagements and equipment donations pos-



**Stephanie Durno Karns**  
Director of Operations, Wildlife  
Investigators Training Alliance

sible. Our Anti-Wildlife Trafficking classes are unique because they are reality-based training that require months of preparation and require incredible logistical support and AGA-Africa always comes through. Some of these classes include Digital Evidence Recovery, Crime Scene Processing, Time of Death Investigation, Case and Intelligence Management, Informant Handling and Undercover Operations, to name a

few. AGA-Africa and WITA are also partnering to save Ranger lives in offering instruction in First Aid and Ranger Safety techniques.

From AGA-Africa's country representatives and support staff all the way up to their leadership, we always know we are working with a dedicated and professional organization who supports the rule of law and recognizes that wildlife crime is serious. Because of AGA-Africa, we have been privileged to train in-person and virtually with Rangers of Malawi DNPW, Malawi Prosecutors and presented to the Malawi Law Society. Additionally, we've put on training for the Zambia Prosecution Authority and Wildlife Police Officers and Investigators of the Zambia DNPW. Most recently, we presented to the South Africa Financial Intelligence Centre about illegal wildlife trafficking and financial investigations. The investigation of financial crimes in the illicit wildlife trade provides an opportunity to follow the money from these crimes and attack the head of the snake: the crime syndicates that fund trade in wildlife.

AGA-Africa also makes the donation of investigative equipment, clothing, boots, body armor and other necessary supplies possible. Together, WITA organizes the collection of the items in the United States and AGA-Africa provides for the shipping and distribution to recipient agencies. Currently, WITA is in the process of collecting necessary equipment that will be distributed in a future drive.

The partnership between AGA-Africa and WITA helps to support the rule of law, improve the sustainability of critically endangered wildlife species, and improve the safety and efficacy of the men and women who protect our precious natural resources.

- **What more do you think can be done to tackle this trade and in what ways can the different communities support to help curb this trade?**

Often, we say that every animal that flies, walks or swims has a price on its head. Illegal wildlife trafficking and environmental crime is a multi-billion-dollar business and oftentimes goes hand-in-hand with other crimes such as narcotics and gun trafficking. Wildlife trafficking encourages corruption across all levels of government, threatens global health by fueling the spread of zoonotic diseases, and threatens the rule of law.

Combating illegal wildlife trafficking demands a cohesive approach that leverages many different strategies and resources. There is a lot more that can be done but it takes money and time. Every single person can participate in combating wildlife crime, through education, science and research, community advocacy, direct enforcement, law enforcement cooperation, and leadership.

Because AGA-Africa prioritizes wildlife crime as part of their vital trainings offered throughout Africa, progress is being made. Ideally, we would train every Ranger, Wildlife Police Officer, and Investigator we possibly can with the best practices to investigate and prosecute wildlife crimes, as well as provide them with the nec-

essary equipment to do their jobs. That's not always possible especially with the incredible impact COVID has had throughout the world. AGA-Africa, however, consistently rises to the challenges and still manages to consistently offer the best training available, albeit virtually.

So...what more can be done? AGA-Africa and WITA will continue to equip and empower Rangers and other wildlife and legal professionals in the areas of enhancing investigative and prosecutorial skills when it comes to IWT. Additionally, port officers must be trained to recognize methods of concealment and fraudulent documents utilized by smugglers. Financial investigators also need proper training into understanding wildlife trade value chains where they can as we say, "follow the money and they will find the bad guys". Not only is the education of Rangers, Attorneys and Investigators crucial but, so is public outreach and education. It always thrills us to see AGA-Africa tweet about wildlife trafficking issues as they leverage social media so well.

Finally, countries must commit to effective enforcement of wildlife law and to participate fully in international efforts to fight wildlife trafficking. Corruption must be addressed at all levels. It is critical that governments and international regulatory bodies incentivize wildlife conservation and law enforcement.

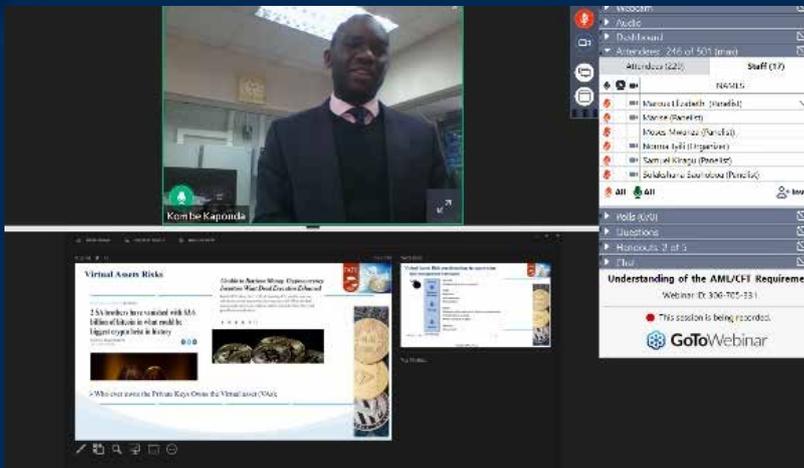
**“ Many areas of Africa are economically dependent on tourism, and the collapse of the tourism industry has increased the reliance of rural peoples on wildlife for food. ”**

## Newsbyte

# Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism Webinar with FIC (Zambia) and ESAAMLG



In collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Centre, Zambia and the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), AGA-Africa held a three-day webinar on “Understanding of the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Requirements for Virtual Assets (VAs) and Virtual Assets Service Providers (VASPs) for Regulators/Supervisors” from 12th – 14th July, 2021 in Zambia. Mary Chirwa, Director General, Financial Intelligence Centre, and Joseph Jagada, ESAAMLG, Secretariat Senior official, delivered the keynote addresses.



# Prosecution of Electoral Offences Workshop with National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) Zambia

AGA-Africa in partnership with the National Prosecutions Authority (NPA) Zambia held a three-day webinar on Prosecution of Electoral Offences from 13th – 15th July, 2021. The webinar was graced by, among others, Fulata Lillian Shawa-Siyunyi, Director of Public Prosecutions, Zambia and Mable Bauleni-Nawa, Chief Administrator, National Prosecution Authority Zambia.



# Illegal Wildlife Trade Webinar with the Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa

AGA-Africa joined hands with the Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa for a two-day webinar on Illegal Wildlife Trade from 22nd – 23rd July, 2021. Advocate Xolisile Khanyile, Director, Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa delivered the inaugural address.



# Data Privacy Regulation with University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa



In partnership with the Department of Mercantile Law, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria (UP), AGA-Africa organized a webinar themed “Data Privacy Regulation: Covid and Beyond” held on 29th July, 2021. The event was moderated by Prof. Jacolien Barnard, Associate Professor, Department of Mercantile Law, University of Pretoria and John Ukegbu, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, New Jersey Office, Northeast, New Jersey Legal Service (NNJLS), United States, with a special appearance by Frances Nicotra, President, Hudson County Bar Association.

# Women Judges and Magistrates Mentorship Forum: Personality, Purpose & Passion: Pathways to Leadership

AGA-Africa in conjunction with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) – Kenya Chapter, organized an inspirational mentorship webinar for women judges and magistrates on 30th July, 2021. The webinar was graced by Hon. Lady Justice Agnes Murgor, the president of the International Association of Women Judges, Hon. Theresa Holmes-Simmons, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Arlington, Charlotte, Philadelphia and York Immigration Courts, Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, Presiding Judge La Crosse County Circuit Court, Hon. Lady Justice Effie Owuor, Rtd. Judge Court of Appeal Kenya, and Hon. Lady Justice Jessie Lesiit, Judge of the Court of Appeal of Kenya.



## Related News

Government and non-governmental organizations across African countries have amped up their efforts in fighting Wildlife trafficking in the continent in a bid to save endangered species. Here is a round up of a few scenarios geared towards the protection of wildlife, including big wins achieved by the protective bodies.

Uganda: The country has secured funding from the United Nations Development Programme to procure surveillance drones that will man parts of its protected areas, which are not routinely patrolled by rangers, and camera traps that will help identify poachers and intruders at porous entrances to game parks, according to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)... [Read More](#)

Nigeria (West Africa): The illegal wildlife trade is believed to be the world's fourth-largest illegal business after arms, drugs and human trafficking. According to the study, "West Africa's growing role as a major transit hub in global (for readers who may not know) IWT supply chains threatens wildlife across the African continent." ...[Read More](#)

South Africa: The illicit trade, the report says, implicated many of the countries and territories that commonly imported or exported hippo ivory legally. Hippo teeth were the most-seized specimen, with carvings and skulls also seized in smaller quantities...[Read More](#)

Kenya: The use of tracking alongside forensic science – and, crucially, improved prosecutions – has underpinned Kenya's dramatic drop in elephant poaching. Cases have fallen from a peak of 449 killed illegally in the country in 2012 to 93 in 2018, the last year for which official figures are available. In the case of elephants, this downward trend is believed to have continued. And, in the case of rhinos, not a single animal was poached in Kenya in 2020, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) ...[Read More](#)

## Upcoming Events August 2021

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for these insightful training sessions.



## AGA-Africa Instagram Live

In the first of its kind, AGA-Africa hosted an insightful conversation on Human Trafficking on Instagram on 30th July 2021. The conversation featured Anita Nyanjong, Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network, and Evalyne Mboya, Officer in Charge, Cyber Division, AHTCPU – National Police Service and Judie Kaberia, Journalist, Media Trainer, Human Rights and media freedom advocate.

## AUGUST



### Nigeria 30th - 31st

Maintaining security in civil society and ensuring respect for fundamental Human Rights Webinar- Nigeria Police Force

## SEPTEMBER



### Malawi 20th - 23rd

Asset Forfeiture for Investigators and Prosecutors Workshop - Financial Intelligence Authority/ Ministry of Justice/ DPP/ International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR)



### South Africa 22nd

Producing Strategic Intelligence Webinar- Financial Intelligence Centre



### Malawi 24th - 25th

Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence Workshop - Ministry of Justice/ DPP

## OCTOBER



### Malawi 6th - 7th

Crimes (Red flags) related to New Payment Methods- Financial Intelligence Authority

## World Events

- 9th Aug International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12th Aug International Youth Day
- 19th Aug World Humanitarian Day
- 21st Aug International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

- 22nd Aug International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23rd Aug International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 30th Aug International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

# Thank you!

## **Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism Webinar, Zambia**

- Kirk Peifer, Program Manager, IRS Criminal Investigation Division Cyber Crimes
- Sanjeev Bhasker, Attorney Advisor, Digital Currency Initiative, Money Laundering & Asset Recovery Section, United States Department of Justice
- Samuel Kiragu, Coordinator of Financial Services Programs, Nova Scotia Community College, Canada
- Sulakshana Gigabhoy Sauhoboa, State Counsel, Attorney General's Office Mauritius
- Amon Chitsva, Head Research and Policy Payment Systems at Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
- Mercy Buku, AML/CFT Legal and Risk Management Consultant, Banking and Digital Financial Services Sector
- Kombe Kaponda, ICT Networks and Security Solutions Engineer
- Anand Ramaswamy, International Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Attorney Advisor, Sub Saharan Africa
- Michael Ilishibo, Digital Forensic Analyst, Zambia Police Service
- Marcus Elizabeth, Policy Analyst at Seychelles Ministry of Finance, Trade and Investment
- Diphat Tembo, Certified Anti Money Laundering Specialist, Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS)

Special thank you to Dr. Freda Mwamba-Brazle, Managing Partner, Innovatus Zambia and AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, Zambia.

## **Prosecution of Electoral Offences Workshop, Zambia**

- Dr. Steven W. S. Kayuni, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Justice, Malawi
- Charlton T. Howard III, State Prosecutor, Maryland, US
- Andrea W. Trento, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division of the Maryland Attorney General's Office
- Philip V. Apruzzese, Director, Combatting Upstate Financial Fraud Schemes (CUFFS) Initiative, Office of the New York State Attorney General
- Victor Mule, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the DPP, Kenya
- Hon. Mr. Justice Chalwe Farai Ralph Mchenga, Deputy Judge President of the Court of Appeal, Zambia
- Triza Kutambe Phiri-Lungu, Manager, Legal Electoral Commission of Zambia

Special thank you to moderators: Gina Nyampachila Nyalugwe, Deputy Chief State Advocate (Provincial Attorney), National Prosecution Authority, Central Province, and Katongo Ian Waluzimba Deputy Chief State Advocate (Provincial Attorney), National Prosecution Authority, Southern Province-Zambia.

## **Illegal Wildlife Trade Webinar, South Africa**

- John Cruden, Principal, Beveridge and Diamond (Former Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, US Department of Justice)
- Maxwell Ntuthuko Mashiyane, Senior Analyst, Monitoring and Analysis Division, Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa
- Gerald Byleveld, Head, Financial Crime Compliance and Group Money Laundering Reporting Officer, Investec Shawn Karns, Criminal Investigator & President, WITA, Stephanie Durno Karns, Wildlife Biologist & Project Coordinator, WITA
- Jim Karani, Wildlife Crime Consultant and General Counsel, Lawyers For Animal Protection In Africa.

Special thank you to moderators: Lize van Schoor, Senior Legal & Policy Advisor, Financial Intelligence Centre, and Pieter Smit, Executive Manager, Financial Intelligence Centre, South Africa.

## **Data Privacy Regulation: Covid and Beyond, South Africa**

- Kimathi Kuenyehia, Managing Partner, Kimathi & Partners, Ghana
- Dr. Patrick Lebene Adonoo, Director Regulatory And Compliance, Data Protection Commission, Ghana
- Dr. Isaac M. Rutenberg, Director, Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT), Strathmore Law School, Kenya
- Prof. Sylvia Papadopoulos, Associate Professor, Department of Mercantile Law, University of Pretoria , South Africa
- Khushbu Patel, Quality Assurance Specialist, Hill Holiday, United States.

Special thank you to moderators: Prof. Jacolien Barnard, Associate Professor, Department Mercantile of Law, University of Pretoria and John Ukegbu, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, New Jersey Office, Northeast.

#### **Women Judges and Magistrates Mentorship Forum, Kenya**

- Hon. Theresa Holmes-Simmons, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Arlington, Charlotte, Philadelphia and York Immigration Courts
- Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, Presiding Judge La Crosse County Circuit Court
- Hon. Lady Justice Effie Owuor, Rtd. Judge Court of Appeal of Kenya
- Hon. Lady Justice Jessie Lesiit, Judge of the Court of Appeal of Kenya

Special thank you to moderator Ebelechukwu Enedah, Partner, PUNUKA Attorneys & Solicitors and AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Nigeria and to Kim Robinson, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, South Africa for representing AGA-Africa in the webinar.



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