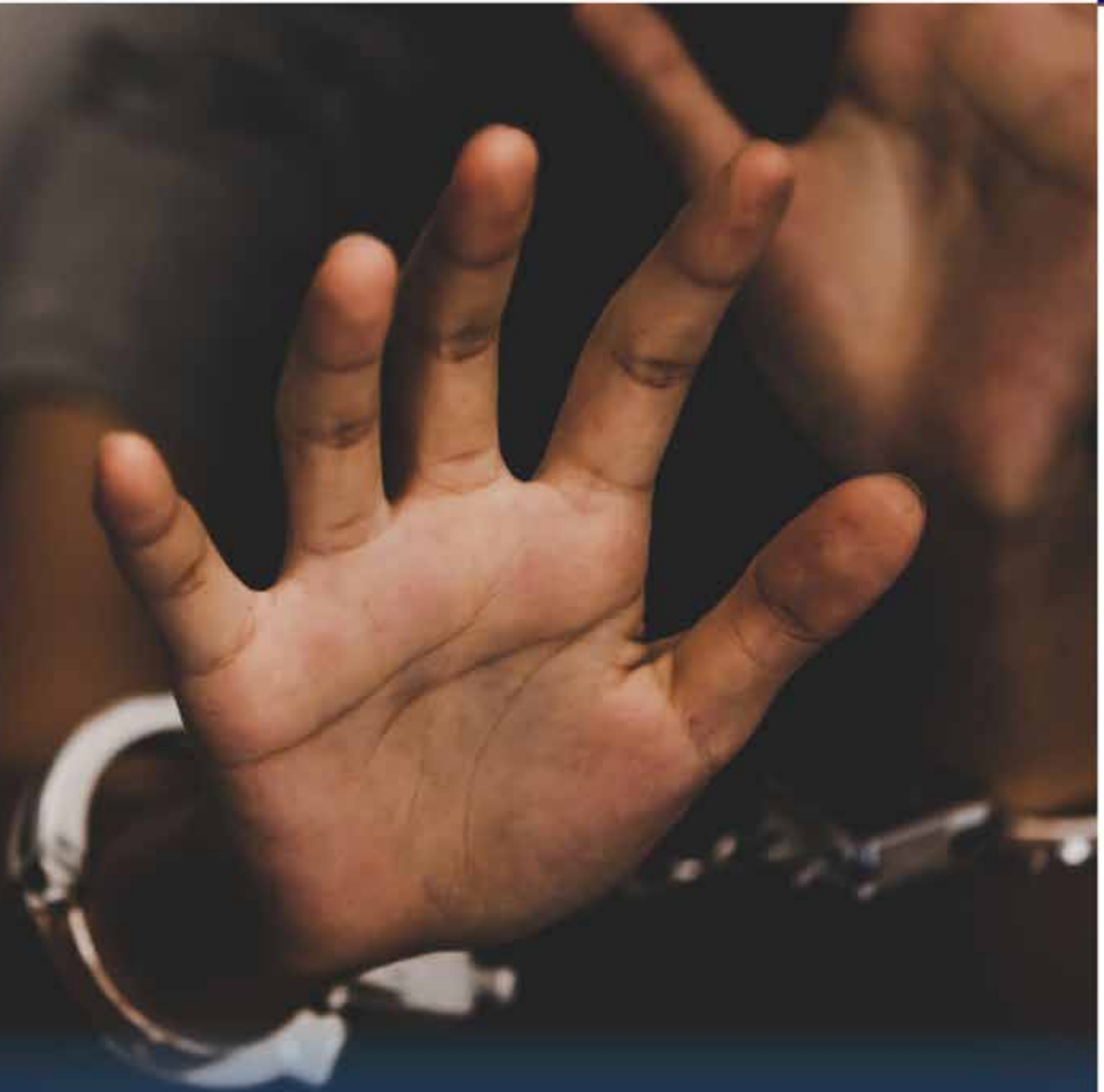




# AGA-AFRICA

AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER



**Human Trafficking...**  
**Is this modern-day slavery?**

# Foreword



**Markus Green,**  
Board Member, AGA-Africa

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the July 2022 issue of the AGA-Africa Newsletter. July was a very busy month.

This month, AGA-Africa attended the *Commonwealth African Cyber Fellows Conference*, which was held from 5th - 6th July 2022 at the Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi, Kenya.

From 12th – 15th July 2022, AGA-Africa in collaboration with the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa (PABASA) hosted a 3-day training on *Intermediate Advocacy in Sandton*, South Africa.

During the same time, AGA-Africa in collaboration with the Food and Drugs Authority of Ghana also organized a 3-day workshop on *Effective Investigation of Regulatory Crimes* from 13th -15th July 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

The following week, the Food and Drugs Authority of Ghana collaborated with AGA-Africa to organize another 3-day workshop on *Effective Prosecution of Regulatory Crimes* from 20th - 22nd July 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

Towards the end of the month, AGA-Africa collaborated with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN) to host a 3-day workshop on *Paralegal Service Delivery* in Nigeria from 26th - 28th July 2022 in Abuja Nigeria.

In recognition of 29th July 2022, *World Day Against Human trafficking*, it is essential to note that Human Trafficking is a global issue and governments & Law enforcement Agencies need to work together to be able to combat these criminal activities.

I wish to thank **Dr. Tawanda Hondora** Head of Rule Law Section at the Commonwealth Secretariat; **Nasreen Rajab-Budlender SC**, Chairperson, Pan African Bar Association of South Africa (PABASA); **Sha'ista Kazee**, National Director, Pius Langa School of Advocacy; **Delese Mimi Darko**, Chief Executive Officer, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana and **Mr. Aliyu Bagudu Abubakar**, Director-General, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN) for their continued support for the AGA-Africa programme.

I call your attention to Otubea Asare's article on *Conservation of Africa's Critically Endangered Fauna*.

# Human Trafficking, is this the new modern-day slavery?

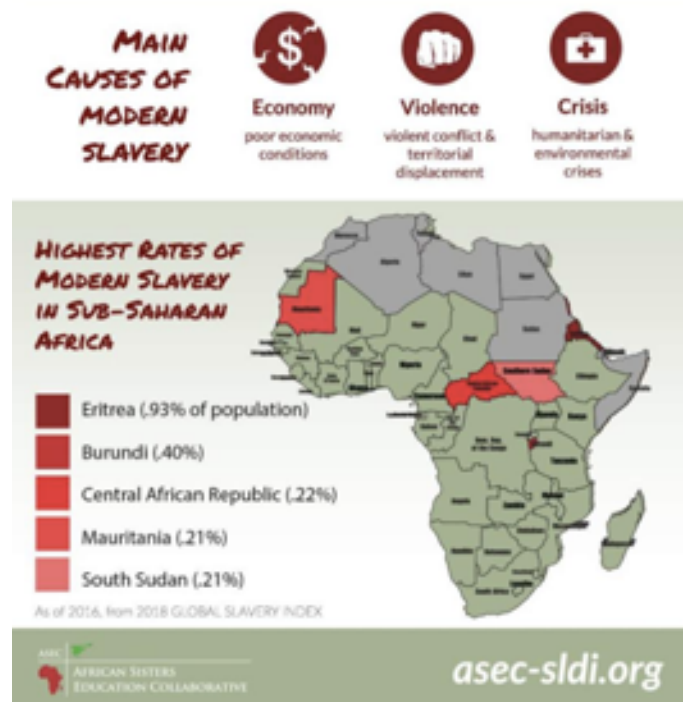
Trafficking in persons is the most serious threat to human dignity with children accounting for 27 % of all human trafficking victims worldwide. Currently, human trafficking is the world's fastest-growing criminal enterprise and is the world's second most profitable enterprise. Every year, hundreds of thousands of children are smuggled across borders and sold as commodities, including talented young athletes trafficked by sham agents promising fame and an escape route from a cycle of poverty.

Children are the most vulnerable group to trafficking, often preyed upon by traffickers through different means including and not limited to sporting events. Although prosecutions alone are not sufficient to stop trafficking, they are an essential component of the law enforcement response in different African countries. Governments will have to work harder and do a lot more to identify, protect, and serve the population from going under the control of traffickers who are part of a large criminal enterprise with tentacles across different countries.

What are some signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery?

- They are reluctant to speak or interact with strangers and are often nervous
- They wear the same clothes every day that are often dirty or worn
- They have no form of ID
- They seem tired or starved
- They seem to work all day, every day

“prosecutions alone are not sufficient to stop trafficking”



<http://asec-sldi.org/news/current/human-trafficking-sub-saharan-africa/>

# Human Trafficking Survivor Interview



**Evelyn Chumbow**  
*Survivor Activist, Project Assistant, Baker McKenzie Board Member, The Human Trafficking Legal Center and Free the Slaves*

## 1. Please introduce yourself

My name is Evelyn Chumbow, and I am a survivor of child labor trafficking. As a survivor, anti-trafficking activist, and public speaker, I have dedicated my life's work to ending modern-day slavery. My advocacy has allowed me to work tirelessly in communities to create employment opportunities for trafficking survivors and brief government agencies about human trafficking from a survivor's perspective, including the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Department of Justice. I am currently the Operations Manager and Survivor Advocate at the Human Trafficking Legal Center and serve as a Board member for Free the Slaves.

## 2. It's not easy sharing your experiences. What has it been like speaking out as a survivor of child trafficking?

As a survivor, it's never easy sharing your story, but I know my identity has played a vital part in shaping my experience. As a survivor from Africa, my story was not well received by many people from my country. I was accused of wanting money and

attention for simply sharing my truth. In America, where I was trafficked at nine, I was told I wanted documents to stay in the U.S., despite not understanding the system. Yet, this did not stop me from sharing my story. I began to see that I encouraged other survivors to speak up and reach out for help by speaking out. I even received support from other Africans, who now felt encouraged to do the same. I am especially grateful that my story has connected me with survivors from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, and Nigeria. All of them I have had the pleasure of helping along their journey.

## 3. Please share with us some of the emotional and physical effects you've experienced as a result of the trauma

When I was taken from my family and country, I was separated from the community and culture. My trafficker would traumatize me both physically and emotionally; I still have the scars today. She would take off my clothes and beat me. There were times when I had to sleep on the floor, and she would call me ugly, all because of the complexion of my skin. At this point in my life, I had to deal with it all alone. I would not see my family until years after I had escaped my trafficker and became settled in the United States; I was 27. I continue to suffer from the deep-rooted emotional and physical effects of my trafficking.

## 4. Would you narrate to us about your path toward recovery and what helped you?

My path toward recovery has not been easy, and I have struggled with the lack of support shown to myself and other African survivors by African governments. Still, I am grateful for the person I am today and the growth I have seen throughout my journey. Since escaping my trafficker, I have obtained my G.E.D and Bachelors of Science in Homeland Security. My advocacy efforts in the human trafficking movement have allowed me to train law enforcement, speak internationally, and be nominated by former President Obama to sit on the first-ever White House Council on Human Trafficking. The road to recovery has not been easy, but knowing that others have had similar experiences as me makes all the difference. My network of survivors and being a mother have given me the strength to navigate the different stages of my recovery.

### 5. What's your advice to human trafficking survivors who may not want to reach out for help?

My advice to survivors of human trafficking is to overcome their fear. I know that whether in or out of a trafficking situation, it's hard to trust people, even if they can help. Furthermore, I know that it may be difficult for Africans to classify themselves as survivors or even reach out for help because of their government's lack of support. But seek help and reach out. The more survivors stand up against this system; the more our governments recognize this issue.

### 6. What more can governments and responsible agencies do to support survivors of trafficking?

Governments and agencies need to listen to survivors. Specifically speaking to African governments, they need to take the issue of trafficking more seriously. Not long ago, Africans were being auctioned off in Libya or traveling to Morocco trying to cross the border to Spain and being dehumanized. All the while, African governments turned their backs. Therefore, they need to fight for their citizens and develop policies that protect and improve the quality of life in their countries. African governments need to assist survivors in receiving attorneys, especially pro-bono attorneys, who can help them understand their rights and move forward with legal action against their traffickers. By collaborating with survivors, attorneys, and advocates, governments and agencies can institute policies and programs that reduce trafficking in that part of the world. Most importantly, by listening to survivors, these sectors can begin to fully understand the impact of human trafficking.

### 7. What do you think women and girls who don't know about trafficking should know?

I want to acknowledge that trafficking affects everyone, even men and boys. Yet, women and girls are most vulnerable to trafficking. As a survivor advocate, I understand that poverty is the root cause of trafficking. If you're experiencing poverty, people offering you a better opportunity in another country sounds great, but I always tell people to be careful, especially regarding online conversations.

### 8. What motivates you to continue to working towards combating human trafficking?

When I envision the child taken from her family, I am reminded of why I continue to engage in the #endHumanTrafficking movement. Sure, there are times when I want to quit or take a break, but then I think about my story and how it has helped so many survivors in similar situations.

- Seeing myself as that young child that was taken from her family
- Remembering why I was in Cameroon
- Thinking about the big compound that my traffickers family owned, where many children were forced to work
- I would not wish my situation on anyone, not only as a child but well into my adulthood
- There are times I want to quit, but when I think of what I and other went through, it motivates me to keep fighting
- Knowing that my story has helped a lot of victims in similar situations, that motivates me to keep going.



# Conservation of Africa's Critically Endangered Fauna

by Otubea Asare



*From the author, Otubea Asare: Tackling the subject of conservation after AGA's Africa great interview with Shawn Karns, President of Wildlife Investigators Training Alliance (WITA), is akin to challenging Angelique Kidjo to Miriam Makeba's "Pata-Pata"!*

*Conservation is dear to my heart, and I hope to complement the WITA June interview. Recognition is due to conservationists who led the early charge in protecting wildlife: Jacques Cousteau, Jane Goodall, the late Diane Fossey, the multiple-award winning naturalist, Sir David Attenborough, and the late Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement, first African woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for groundbreaking ecological conservation efforts in her native Kenya and Africa.*

**O**minous clouds loom over Africa's ecosystem balance. Converging crises of

global warming and climate change are triggering mass extinction events for humans and animals, catalyzed by the internecine struggle between animal and human populations, habitat destruction, food conflict, hunting, poaching, and greed: we are drowning, sinking, and burning, with animals the first casualties in this dire scenario. Several animal species are reaching a tipping point. If the African forest and savanna elephants are lost, for example, the only remaining elephant will be the Asiatic elephant, also under pressure from habitat fragmentation, compounded by an insatiable misguided appetite for tusks for Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM), concoctions. If "tusk medicines" worked, they would presumably have cured cancer, Alzheimer's, and covid by now, among other claims.

A look at some of Africa's impressive fauna and flora leads to places like Tanzania's stunning Serengeti National Park, a designated World Heritage Site, and along with Kenya's Maasai Mara game reserve, site of the yearly Great Migration of wildebeest. Botswana's Zarafa Reserve teems with water buffalo and African bush elephants. The countries of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Public of the Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea are all united by the Congo Basin, an expansive wildlife habitat and the world's second largest river basin after the Amazon in Brazil, an ecosystem so vital to the world that it is called the "lungs of the planet" for its absorption of carbon dioxide. The equatorial rainforests of Africa also reduce green house gases and its fauna naturally re-seed forests.

Animals and humans share a symbiotic relationship and inextricably linked fates: life without ecosystems and animals would be abysmal. Wildlife is the proverbial canary in a coal mine, gauging the health of eco systems. According to National Geographic, a single four-mile patch could contain up to 400 species of bird, 150 species of butterfly and 60 species of amphibians.

Additionally, countries like Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda, domicile graceful giraffes, wonderfully grotesque hyenas, gazelles, okapi, impalas, blue duiker, African grey parrots, grey-cheeked mangabeys, optically dazzling zebras, cape buffalo, colobus monkeys, pygmy hippos, bongo antelopes, African civets, red river hogs, and bonobos. Further, chimpanzee canopy dwellers, close relatives of homo sapiens, and the magnificent "Gorillas in the Mist," (a film reference) are threatened as a source of bush meat.

The 13 countries in the world with the fabled Big 5 are all in Africa: lions, leopards, African bush elephants, black rhinoceros, and the African buffalo - the animals that erstwhile game hunters found most difficult to hunt and kill. Africa has cheetahs - world's fastest land animal - (central Iran does too, where the Asiatic cheetah is under threat and only a few hundred remain). Indonesia's Sumatran or Sunda tiger, is a cautionary tale: since the extinction of the Bali and Java tigers, less than 400 are now found only on Sumatra (from Fauna and Flora). Barring strident interventions, Africa's wildlife could suffer the same fate.

Endangered species in Africa include: critically endangered gorillas (crucial to seed dispersal) and highly endangered leopards; southern white rhinos (classified as near threatened); and Kenya's implacable black rhinos, once in the hundreds of thousands, are now fewer than 6000. Africa's elephants, *Loxodonta africana* and *Loxodonta cyclotis* - the smallest of the

world's three elephant species - are endangered. Their matriarchs' GPS-like honing skills lead the troupe to old watering-holes with accurate precision. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), warns that giraffes in Kenya's Maasai Mara Reserve are critically endangered: human encroachment, poachers, and competition for grazing pasture. Lions in Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park are under threat too. Phillip Henschel, Head of Panthera, said "We have to be faster than the poachers."

These animals need help and intervention to survive. Several international conservation organizations and agreements like WITA, IUCN, The Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Endangered Species Act and the Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt (END), Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016, National Geographic, and others, are driving global conservation efforts.

There are compelling reasons for preserving Africa's magnificent wildlife. Importantly, these fauna sustain the rainforests that are so crucial to combating global warming and maintaining a healthy and biodiverse ecosystem. Many species are unique to Africa, and once lost, will be irretrievably gone, as ranger Joseph Wachira witnessed firsthand. He cared for Sudan, the last northern white male rhino, who died in 2018, at 45. Except for a lion subspecies in India's Gir Forest, lions and giraffes are only found in Africa.

Endangered species conservation requires uncompromising actions and African Park rangers are staunch vanguards, the first line of defense against illegal hunters and poachers. WITA's donation of materials and equipment is crucial to combat wildlife trafficking and helps protect rangers against poachers. There is a view that militarizing park rangers is a hostile stance towards locals, but conservationists deem it indispensable: park rangers have been killed protecting wildlife. A BBC article states, "... higher-level criminals - almost always evade justice." Malawi's prosecutions of poachers and traffickers is a successful pivot from poaching hotspot to leader in enforcement and deterrence. Nabbing higher-level criminals will disrupt the illegal wildlife trade, and Kenya's strong anti-poaching laws took effect in 2013.

The WITA interview mentioned there is evidence that some governments "support and foster" wildlife trafficking, which is troubling. Selling even limited licenses to hunt endangered species seems counterintuitive to conservation. Could legal hunting be halted until these animal populations have recovered sufficiently? It is a powerful tool to consider: Japan placed a moratorium on whale hunting, and Gambia imposed a ban on all timber exports to deter illegal

logging of rosewood, specifically. God instructed Noah to build an ark and gather two of every animal so their species could survive the apocalyptic flood. Who are we to hasten their demise rather than prevent it? Continued unabated hunting will lead to eventual extinction.

With global warming now a menacing threat to life, any global fossil fuel exploration is ill-advised, especially in forest habitat for endangered mountain gorillas. Auctioning oil and gas permits for the DRC's Virunga National Park would result in gorilla loss, conflict, more greenhouse gases and global warming.

While programs designed to save species on the brink of extinction can be successful, it is best not to let matters reach that precipice. After a 40 year intense relocation program with South Africa, rhinos are back in Mozambique. Is this the solution for Kenya's rhinos? North America's bison populations grew under a protection program, and Washington's National Zoo has a panda exchange program with China. Africa's impressive game reserves merit broader global recognition. The Dzanga-Sangha Special Forest Reserve in the Central African Republic forms an alliance with Cameroon's Lobeke National Park and Congo's Nouabale-Ndoki National Park. Crossborder collaborations enhance biodiversity, while sustainable eco tourism, non-hunting Safaris engender respect for wildlife conservation, and generate income.

Could alternatives like virtual hunting be explored? With advanced technological innovations, there must be a way, or a competition to design it, for life-like hunting. The pressure to open up tracts of forest to logging, mining, and subsistence farming is a grave one. Despite competing priorities, governments will need to demonstrate the political and moral will to protect wildlife with awareness campaigns, funding in forestry careers, in veterinary medicine, and in wildlife biology.

The greater good is at the forefront of conservation in Africa - ultimately for posterity, each generation striving to move the needle forward or to hold the line. Africa has a responsibility to protect its fauna; and yet, a minute fraction of earth's population engage in illegal wildlife trafficking, destroy ecosystems, and deplete wildlife. French composer Camille Saint-Saens even dedicated a classical score to the world's fauna, the spirited, *Le Carnaval des Animaux*. The fauna belong to the earth, not man's greed or ego. There is a perverse anachronistic hubris to big game hunting, and the mind set around it has to shift: according to an article in Science Alert, "Today, every single class of megafauna is most at risk from human hunting." Wildlife must be given every chance at survival.



People should not get too close to the animals at the zoo - it is distressing when they (animals) are euthanized.

#### Additional Sources

**Planet Earth DVD** <https://www.amazon.com/Planet-Earth-Complete-David-Attenborough/dp/B000MR9D5E>  
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/rain-forest> <https://www.worldwildlife.org/places/congo-basin> <https://www.fauna-flora.org/species/sumatran-tiger/> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62020407> <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Wangari-Maathai> <https://www.france24.com/en/video/20220705-mozambique-wiped-out-more-than-40-years-ago-rhinos-make-their-return> <https://www.savetherhino.org/rhino-info/population-figures/> <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-62094405> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11923>

**Inside the race to save West Africa's endangered lions** [https://apple.news/AhMnUMx\\_1TRqRybCdwYjQXg](https://apple.news/AhMnUMx_1TRqRybCdwYjQXg) <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/elephant-genes-suppress-tumours-could-studying-help-us-prevent-cancer> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/18/science/malawi-poaching-wildlife.html>

**DRC to auction oil and gas permits in endangered gorilla habitat**  
**The Guardian:** <https://apple.news/AgfIj-RlpQOyvlqh5rcvVyQ> <https://www.sciencealert.com/humans-are-quickly-eating-the-world-s-largest-animals-to-extinction> **Rhinos** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tdz5vrsvFo4>

#### Additional Reading on Conservation

**Trafficking** <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11923> <https://rainforests.mongabay.com/congo/> <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/06/indonesian-official-charged-but-notjailed-for-trading-in-sumatran-tiger-parts/> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/dom-philips-and-bruno-pereira> **Trophy hunter who killed lions, elephants shot dead:** <https://apple.news/A2vWguh2oRI-OQEB5hfmYPQ> <http://www.heartsonvenezuela.com/no-more-violence-and-impunity-in-amazonas-justice-now-for-virgilio-trujillo/> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/dentist-confessed-killing-wife-african-safari-federal-prosecutor-says-rcna38178> **New Zealand Kiwi:** <https://apple.news/AlEuOpTG8QBWRcmXI4mWEJw> <https://www.dw.com/en/brazil-amazon-deforestation-up-20-last-year-report/a-62517871> <https://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/20265935.poacher-stole-61-751-fish-will-pay-1-proceeds-crime/> <https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucn-red-list> **Tiny island is rallying to save a critically endangered parrot** **Rimatarā lorikeets** <https://apple.news/AYzxKGXepSJKTiTF3qXiucw> **Bison** <https://apple.news/ATGCQ74-GR8iiLleYJNOTsA> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/01/stop-deep-sea-mining-says-macron-in-call-for-new-laws-to-protect-ecosystems> <https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/focus/20220628-future-of-australia-s-great-barrier-reef-hangs-in-the-balance> **How rangers are using AI to protect India's tigers** <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-61824904>

# Newsbytes

## › Commonwealth African Cyber Fellows Conference, 5th -6th July 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

The conference brought together 20 participants drawn from 12 African Commonwealth countries.

During the two-day conference, Fellows explored solutions required to address the increasingly complex types, scale, and impact of cybercrime in Africa. They also considered available options for African countries' involvement in different anti-cybercrime treaty frameworks, including efforts initiated by the United Nations General Assembly, to create a global cybercrime treaty.

### The Commonwealth Africa Cyber Fellowship

**programme** was launched during the conference aimed at strengthening the cyber security and anti-cybercrime laws, policies and institutions.

“At the Commonwealth Secretariat, we are constantly seeking new ways to assist member countries to build their capacity to fully leverage the benefits of the digital age. This flagship programme will create a robust community of excellence in Africa that leads the design and implementation of digital technologies and effective cybersecurity and anti-cybercrime frameworks,” said **Dr Tawanda Hondora**, Head of the Rule of Law Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat.



*Participants from 12 African Commonwealth countries during a session at the conference*



*Dr. Tawanda Hondora  
Head of Rule of Law Section  
The Commonwealth Secretariat*



*A group photo of the conference participants*

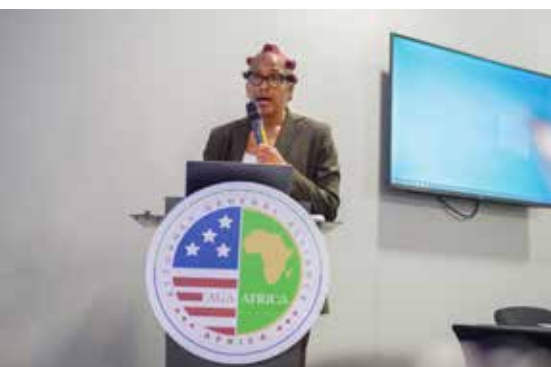
## › Intermediate Advocacy Training, 12th – 15th July 2022, South Africa

The 3-day workshop brought together practising advocates and attorneys from the public and private sectors and was aimed at improving their case analysis, witness handling and cross-examination techniques as well as equipping them with skills on alternative techniques and strategies for the preparation, handling, control and direct and cross-examination of witnesses in trial proceedings.

AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for South Africa, **Kim Robinson**, welcomed the participants to the training, highlighting that AGA-Africa employs blended

approaches in all its training, where participants can learn from one another and engenders cross-border collaborations.

**Muzi Sikhakhane**, Founder and Chairperson of the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa and Victoria Mxenge Group also highlighted that the PABASA's overarching purpose is to provide an environment in which Black advocates, in particular, can grow and thrive. He added that its membership is committed to independence, professionalism, excellence, the promotion of democracy, and gender equality.



*Kim Robinson, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, South Africa*



*Muzi Sikhakhane, founder and chairman of PABASA and Victoria Mxenge Group*



*Sha'ista Kazee, National Director, Pius Langa School of Advocacy*



*L-R: Matthew Chaskalson, founder member of the Victoria Mxenge Group of Advocates and a Founder member of PABASA; Attorney Tobara Richardson, Counsel for Social Justice Equity, Office of Illinois Attorney General; Kim Robinson, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, South Africa; Barbra Mchenga Tsiga, Deputy Commissioner of Police and Director of Legal Services; and Sha'ista Kazee, National Director, Pius Langa School of Advocacy*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and PABASA representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants*

## › Effective Investigation of Regulatory Crimes and Effective Prosecution of Regulatory Crimes Workshops, 13th -15th & 20th – 22nd July 2022 Ghana

The means to commit a crime has become increasingly complex with the development of technology and access to the World Wide Web. With public health offences increasingly on the rise, Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority has doubled its commitment to ensuring that perpetrators of such crimes are caught, and the appropriate regulatory sanctions applied.

The workshops brought together staff from the Food and Drugs Authority-Ghana, Security Agencies in Ghana, Ghana Revenue Authority-Customs Division, Economic and Organised Crime Office and Prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney General Ghana.

The objective of the workshops was to equip the participants with the essential knowledge to enhance their preparedness during investigations and prosecution response plans, procedures and systems for all hazards and capabilities whilst on the

investigations as well as improve their skills in effective intelligence-led operations.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the Effective Prosecution of Regulatory Crimes workshop, **Mr Roderick Doddey**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Food and Drug Authority Ghana, welcomed guests thanking all the partners, including AGA-Africa, for coming together to make the training possible. He emphasized that he looked forward to more collaborations with the partners on matters of public health and safety.

“The law assumes that a person is innocent until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It is upon the prosecution to prove that the accused committed the offence. Remember you cannot compel the accused to testify,” noted Prof. Justice Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei, Justice, Court of Appeal, Ghana.



*Roderick Doddey, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Food and Drug Authority Ghana*



*Maame Hagan, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, Ghana*



*William K. Aghavitor, Acting Head of the Legal Department, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana*



*Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei, Justice, Court of Appeal, Ghana*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and FDA representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants during the workshop on Effective Investigation of Regulatory Crimes*

## ›Paralegal Service Delivery Training, 26th -28th July 2022, Nigeria

The training brought together about 100 lawyers drawn from the LACoN, Legal Aid Council (Non-Legal Staff), NGOs (providing paralegal services), University Legal Aid Clinics associated with the Legal Aid Council and the Kogi State Office of the Public Defender.

It provided a platform for the participants to network and share experiences on access to justice among stakeholders and paralegals while exploring the role of paralegals in narrowing the gap in the availability of criminal justice services for awaiting trial persons (ATPs) and persons in police detention in Nigeria.



*Markus Green Esq., Board Member, AGA-Africa*



*Aliyu Bagudu Abubakar, Director-General, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN)*



*Dorcias Oduor, SC, EBS, OGW, Secretary, Public Prosecutions and the Principal Deputy to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN) representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants*



*L R - D. Randall Gilmer, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Nevada; Chukukere Unamba-Oparah, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator, Kenya; Dorcas Oduor, SC, EBS, OGW, Secretary, Public Prosecutions and the Principal Deputy to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya; John Edozie, International Advisor, AGA-Africa; Ebelechukwu Enedah, partner, PUNUKA Attorneys & Solicitors; Bamidele Ibikunle, Director (International Operations) , Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN); Markus Green Esq., Board Member, AGA-Africa and Aliyu Bagudu Abubakar, Director-General, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN)*

## Related News:

**South Africa:** The number of people trapped in human trafficking more than doubled in the 2021-22 financial year in South Africa, according to the latest Trafficking in Persons annual report. From April 2021 to March 2022, 83 people were trafficked, compared with 16 people the year before. Of the 83 people, 74 were referred for care [...Read More](#)

**Nigeria:** In Nigeria, immigration policy and its consequences have been a major contributor to the state and fate of the nation. Statistics available to the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) confirm that non-state actors smuggled in from neighbouring countries have swelled the ranks of militias who have participated in the destruction of lives and property across the country. [...Read More](#)

**Kenya:** In this project, we are creating awareness of migrants' rights. We want people to understand the rights of migrants, especially the migrants themselves and the people who are responsible for protecting those human rights," said Alice Mbuvi, KNCHR Senior Human Resource officer. [...Read More](#)

**Malawi:** A Chinese national accused of racism and exploiting children in Malawi was charged with human trafficking in the capital Lilongwe on Monday 18th July, 2022, local media reported. Lu Ke, 26, was arrested last month in neighbouring Zambia for illegal entry after fleeing Malawi when allegations of abuse surfaced. [...Read More](#)

# Thank You

A big thank you to facilitators of the month:

## Intermediate Advocacy, South Africa

- **Matthew Chaskalson**, Founder member of the Victoria Mxenge Group of Advocates and a Founder member of PABASA
- **Muzi Sikhakhane**, Founder chairman of PABASA and Victoria Mxenge Group
- **Attorney Tobara Richardson**, Tobara Richardson, Counsel for Social Justice Equity, Office of Illinois Attorney General
- **Steven Budlender SC**, Advocate at Victoria Mxenge Group of Advocates
- **Barbra Mchenga Tsiga**, Deputy Commissioner of Police and Director of Legal Services

## Effective Investigation of Regulatory Crimes, Ghana

- **Joseph Yaw-Bernie Bennie**, Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **David Selom Hukportie**, Director, Drug Law Enforcement Unit, CID (Ghana Police Service)
- **Vigil Edward Prah-Ashun**, Head of Intelligence Department, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **Victoria Barth, Managing Partner**, Sam Okudzeto and Associates
- **Gift Minta**, Senior Intelligence Analyst - Strategy & Prevention
- **Samuel Asiedu Okanta**, Commanding Officer, National Police Training School, Accra
- **William Korbla Agbavitor**, Acting Head of the Legal Services Department, Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Ghana
- **Mrs Akua Owusua Amartey PhD**, Deputy Chief Executive, Technical Operations Division- Food and Drugs Authority
- **Mr Roderick K. Daddey-Adjei**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Food Division, Food and Drugs, Authority, Ghana
- **Mr Seth K. Seaneke**, Deputy Chief Executive, Health Products and Technologies Division, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **Mrs Yvonne Nkrumah**, Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services Division, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana

## Effective Prosecution of Regulatory Crimes workshops, Ghana

- **Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei**, Court of Appeal, Ghana
- **Mr Seth K. Seaneke**, Deputy Chief Executive, Health Products and Technologies Division, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **Mrs Yvonne Nkrumah**, Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services Division, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **Mr Roderick K. Daddey-Adjei**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Food Division, Food and Drugs, Authority, Ghana
- **Joseph Yaw-Bernie Bennie**, Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **William Korbla Agbavitor**, Acting Head of the Legal Services Department, Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Ghana
- **Vigil Edward Prah-Ashun**, Head of Intelligence Department, Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
- **Nana Ama Adinkrah**, State Attorney, Office Of The Attorney-General & Ministry Of Justice
- **David Selom Hukportie**, Director, Drug Law Enforcement Unit, CID (Ghana Police Service)
- **C/Supt Felix K. Mawusi (Rtd)**, Chief Executive Officer, Affirm Consulting Ltd

## Paralegal Service Delivery Training, Nigeria

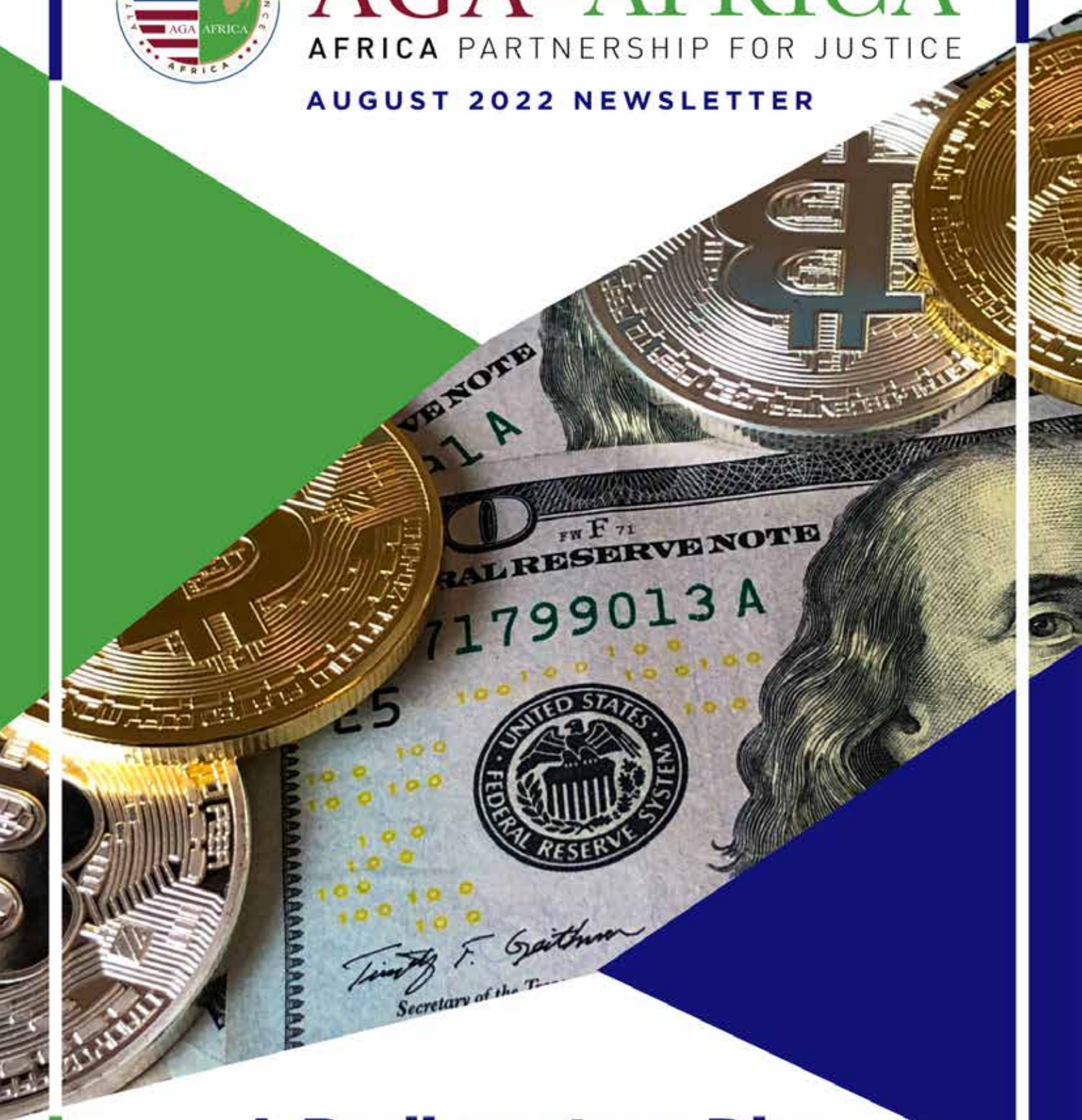
- **Dorcas Oduor**, SC, EBS, OGW, Secretary, Public Prosecutions and the Principal Deputy to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya
- **D. Randall Gilmer**, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Nevada
- **Jesus L. Romero**, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Nevada
- **Ogechukwu Bona Ibenegbu**, Chief Legal Aid officer, Criminal Justice Department, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria
- **Barr. Chibuzo M. Nwosu**, Founder & Principal Partner, Gold Legal Consult
- **Bamidele Ibikunle**, Director (International Operations), Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN)
- **Okorie Kalu**, **Director (International Operations)**, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACoN)
- **Kennedy Asogwa**, Co-founder of Forte Solicitors
- **Ebelechukwu Enedah**, partner, PUNUKA Attorneys & Solicitors
- **Jane Frances Ojoma Bianeyin**, Legal Aid Lawyer, Department of International Relations, LACoN
- **Eric Odion Otojahi**, Partner, PUNUKA Attorneys & Solicitors & Head of Energy/Power Practice Group
- **Isaac Okeme Oguche**, Associate, Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors



# AGA-AFRICA

AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



**A Rudimentary Dive  
into Cryptocurrency**

# Foreword



**Markus Green,**  
Board Member, AGA-Africa

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to introduce the August 2022 issue of the AGA-Africa Newsletter.

This month, AGA-Africa attended *Sports for Education and Economic Development's Hoop Forum celebration (SEED Hoop Forum)*, which was held from 10th - 14th August 2022 in Senegal.

From 23rd – 25th August 2022, AGA-Africa in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia held a training on *Procurement Corruption & Fraud - Management of Informers & Contacts* in Lusaka Zambia.

AGA-Africa also collaborated with Good Governance Africa to organize another 3-day workshop on *Countering the illegal trade of ivory and Rhino horn* in Southern Africa from 24th – 26th August 2022.

I wish to thank **Joseph Lopez**, President, Sports for Education and Economic Development (SEED) project, **Gilbert Phiri**, Director General of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia and **Chris Maroleng**, SADC Executive Director of Good Governance Africa and **Mr. Ikechukwu Uwanna**, Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Lagos Branch for their continued support for the AGA-Africa programme.

I call your attention to Otubea Asare's Interesting perspective on *A Rudimentary Dive into Cryptocurrency*.



# A Rudimentary Dive into Cryptocurrency

by Otubea Asare



Cryptocurrency! The word elicits all manner of responses from people, depending on whether they believe it is a lucrative economic vehicle or a dubious Ponzi scheme-like gimmick. Either way, Finance's erstwhile stepchild

will be ignored no more - most people have one of three reactions to cryptocurrency:

- 1) "Cryp— What?!"
- 2) "Yes, it vaguely rings a bell, I think I've heard of it," or
- 3) "Absolutely - I'm a crypto investor!"

The evolving cryptocurrency landscape can be notorious or lucrative, but always with interesting names. AGA-Africa is prudently and preemptively conducting training sessions on cryptocurrency and digital assets. I hope this attempt to demystify crypto will be helpful too, along with links providing background information and data.

## What is Crypto and Where did it Come From?

Created as an independent financial vehicle outside the purview of banks or governments,

Cryptocurrencies are unregulated around-the-clock globally traded digital assets, rendering them more volatile than regular stocks.

It is the ownership volume of these Bitcoin or Alt coins that drives the supply and demand, affecting values in crypto wallets and vaults. Unlike regular stocks, crypto is not underpinned by another commodity (though Bitcoin has now been tagged as a commodity), product or service, but rather a form of digital cash used to make payments or procure items.

Cryptocurrencies were preceded by the eCash prototype invented by noted American computer scientist and cryptographer David Lee Chaum in 1983, and launched by his company, DigiCash, in 1990. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Chaum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Chaum)  
Satoshi Nakamoto (whose true identity is still shrouded in mystery), introduced Bitcoin in 2009 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satoshi\\_Nakamoto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satoshi_Nakamoto). It held sway until 2011, when coins such as Ethereum, Tether, Cardano, Dogecoin, and Solana, among others, burst on the scene.

## The Cryptocurrency Ecosystem

The cryptocurrency ecosystem includes among other things bitcoin, alt coin, stable coin, meme coin, crypto wallets, lending and trading platforms, exchanges, hedge funds, crypto investment firms, crypto miners, decentralized finance (DeFi), and centralized finance (CeFi), blockchain security companies, hash cash, pool hash rate, cryptography, blockchain bridges, block space, and virtual machines. Once a parallel financial universe to Wall Street's Stock Market, Crypto is rapidly becoming less opaque as it integrates into the mainstream.

Bitcoins are derived from an open source code with censor resistant architecture, permitting code modification and creation of a new coin. Small coins like Monero or Shiba Inu can be mined on a phone; mining big coins requires capital intensive equipment. Startups include Ripple, Blockchain, Bit Pay (akin to PayPal), and Kraken.

## How does Crypto work?

It is a buy, hold, trade market - selling for a profit once coin value has increased.

Online site money crashers <https://www.moneycrashers.com/cryptocurrency-history-bitcoinalternatives/notes> that: "Cryptocurrency supply and value is controlled by the activities of their users and highly complex protocols built into their governing codes, not the conscious decisions of central banks or other regulatory authorities. In particular, the activities of miners — cryptocurrency users who leverage vast amounts of computing power to record transactions, receiving newly created cryptocurrency units and transaction fees paid by other users in return — are critical to currency stability and smooth function." Cryptocurrency has been used as a payment mechanism and a wealthbuilding asset, considered a means to economic freedom: a CNN article touts it as a way for African Americans to grow wealth and financial freedom, though this is debatable.

## Beware Crypto and Crime

Blockchain crypto bridges connect separate networks and are notoriously vulnerable to hacking: \$615 million from Ronin, \$320 from Wormhole, \$100 million from Horizon, and \$200 million from Nomad. \$1.4 billion has already been stolen so far this year.

<https://marketrealist.com/cryptocurrency/are-crypto-bridges-unsafe/> Blockchain is a network of peer-to-peer computers that sequentially record all bitcoin transactions, an immutable ledger of records that cannot be altered without detection. <https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/blockchain/> Cowboy operators certainly exist in the crypto world per Nic Carter, CEO of Castle Island Ventures, and bad actors make crypto prone for abuse - often the result of negligence, non-existent or poorly enforced regulations, and external hackers. "Overall, going by the amount of cryptocurrency sent from illicit addresses to addresses hosted by services, cybercriminals laundered \$8.6 billion worth of cryptocurrency in 2021."

<https://blog.chainalysis.com/reports/2022-crypto-crime-report-preview-cryptocurrency-moneylaundering/>

"Cybercriminals have laundered over \$33 billion worth of cryptocurrency since 2017, with most of the total over time moving to centralized exchanges. For comparison, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime estimates that between \$800 billion and \$2 trillion of fiat (real) currency is laundered each year — as much as 5% of global GDP" (same link as blog chain analysis above). Most recently, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), charged 11 people in a \$300 million Ponzi scheme <https://www.sec.gov/news/pressrelease/2022-134>. The U.S. is fighting back with its SEC Crypto Assets and Cyber Unit, and collaborating with global law enforcement agencies to combat transnational crypto crimes.

Crypto platform Coinbase, which listed unregistered

securities, is vocal in its opposition to the SEC's stringent enforcement, lobbying for benign terms for crypto firms, ahead of pending lawsuits to determine if digital assets are illegal security offerings. The SEC fined BlockFi \$50 million for selling unregistered securities <https://www.sec.gov/news/pressrelease/2022-26>, and there is a book by author Jamie Bartlett about Crypto ponzi queen Dr. Ruja Ignatova, now on Europe's most wanted list. <https://www.amazon.com/Missing-Cryptoqueen-Billion-Dollar-Cryptocurrency/dp/0306829169> Still, Crypto's mainstream march continues: Schwab Asset Management launched the Schwab Crypto Thematic electronic trading fund (ETF) <https://cointelegraph.com/news/charles-schwab-s-asset-management-armlaunches-crypto-linked-etf>, and Deloitte notes 75% of retailers plan to accept digital payments within the next 2 years. <https://apple.news/A3XCW1SmWTNujSzQnor7lug>.

Reserve Bank of India appointed a firm to adopt blockchain for cross-border payments, and Goldman Sachs will utilize blockchain technology.

### **Crypto and the U.S. Regulatory Environment**

There is currently a debate in the United States at the federal level as to which agency should regulate Cryptocurrency. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Chairman, Rostin Behnam, considers crypto to be a digital asset operating in a "regulatory vacuum" that has prompted the commission to start "thinking creatively" about how to apply its authority" <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/digital-future-daily/2022/07/28/inside-the-coinbase-sec-dustup-00048580>

The gray area begs the question of whether some digital assets are actually securities, and that some crypto exchanges are definitely offering securities, so their oversight should fall under the auspices of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In a recent CNBC interview, SEC Chairman Gary Gensler, noted that "Bitcoin is a commodity,"

[https:// news.bitcoin.com/sec-chair-gensler-bitcoin-is-a-commodity/](https://news.bitcoin.com/sec-chair-gensler-bitcoin-is-a-commodity/) but declined to extend the label to any other cryptocurrencies. At the state level, New York Attorney General, Letitia James, is moving to regulate crypto trading in the state of New York <https://ag.ny.gov/pressrelease/2022/investor-alert-attorney-general-james-warns-new-yorkers-about-cryptocurrency> Crypto's unregulated aspect makes regulators see red, while CNBC financial journalist Jim Cramer, considers its collapse proof positive that the Fed's anti-inflation effort has worked. Crypto firms operate in a free range, self-governing space, and regulation is needed as volume and risk keep growing. Steep declines in crypto valuations set off alarm bells, calling into question how crypto should be treated within the existing financial regulatory system. Valued at \$69,000 in November 2021, Bitcoin has now dropped to \$22,000 <https://apple.news/Axjgj0F6PTzCHtlp5PbLlog>. The IMF issued a strong warning when \$2 trillion was lost after Terra USD Stable Coin's collapse, according to Billy Bambrough's Forbes article. The U.S. does not insure non-bank entities, so there is no Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protection for crypto trades, and these losses are solely born by investors. Crypto's appeal extends to pension funds, some of which have suffered significant losses in recent market volatility, portending potentially enormous repercussions for state pension systems and affected retirees.

It is, therefore, timely that Senator Elizabeth Warren recently asked the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) to factor in the volatility of the crypto assets and potential risks, ahead of considering consumer protections for such assets. The OCC issued a legal interpretation stating that federally chartered banks may provide crypto custodial services for crypto assets <https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/news-releases/2020/nr-occ-2020-98.html>

Meanwhile, from the industry perspective, Sheila Warren, the CEO of the Crypto Council

for Innovation, states that having Crypto taken seriously, is a good thing for all sides. Crypto exchanges on Bloomberg's Terminal are valued at \$11 billion, showing that investors take crypto quite seriously. It is time for all sides to come to the table.

### **Cryptocurrency is Expanding in Africa**

Africa is the third fastest-growing cryptocurrency market globally, with a booming blockchain startup scene <https://www.cvvv.com/insights>, and Bitcoin became legal tender in the Central African Republic this April. An UNCTAD policy brief shows crypto catching on in Africa, with Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria already using digital currencies: 8.5%, 7.1%, and 6.3% of the populations, respectively. <https://www.cryptotimes.io/unctad-reportsreveals-kenya-tops-crypto-ownership-in-africa/> The cryptocurrency trading platform, Coindirect, is available in 24 countries, including in Africa, allowing users to trade bitcoin and alt coins. <https://theconversation.com/cryptocurrencies-are-gaining-ground-across-africathats-both-good-news-and-bad-187141>.

Pan-African crypto exchange MARA raised \$23 million in May 2022, while Nigeria's e-wallet company Afriex got \$10 million.

<https://www.coindesk.com/business/2022/05/11/mara-raises-23m-from-coinbase-alameda-to-spread-crypto-adoption-across-africa/> "Although the African continent receives only 2 percent of the global value of all cryptocurrencies, their rapid growth will transform financing in an increasingly digital and urban sub-Saharan Africa." Cryptocurrencies are an attractive alternative vehicle for remittances and payments in Africa, filling in access gaps to formal banking, and lack of confidence in traditional banks. "In fact, of the \$48 billion remitted to sub-Saharan Africa in 2019, Chainalysis estimates that up to \$562 million worth of remittance payments were facilitated by cryptocurrencies such as Ripple.

Cryptos have accelerated affordable mortgages

and accommodate irregular income patterns that limit credit. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2022/03/16/the-role-of-cryptocurrencies-in-sub-saharan-africa/>. More African countries are exploring Central

Bank Digital Cash (CBDC), per the IMF <https://blogs.imf.org/2022/06/23/more-african-central-banks-are-exploring-digital-currencies/countries> will face the same issues as the United States with regulatory, taxation, and security of digital assets. To avoid becoming a safe haven for crypto money laundering to fund terror activities, countries will need strong infrastructure to expand crypto trading:

the massive scale of the theft from crypto blockchain bridges in the U.S. serves as fair warning to strengthen defenses and train crypto experts. To fight such crimes, AGA-Africa is stridently training law enforcement professionals on how to recover and analyze digital assets during a 3-day workshop on Forensic Sciences and Examination of Digital Devices in Zambia. Further, AGA-Africa continues to emphasize training with its "Digital asset and Cryptocurrency: Legal, Regulatory and Cybersecurity Issues," conference with the Nigerian Bar Association. Plus, the United Africa Blockchain Association delivers blockchain and artificial intelligence education across Africa, recognizing its importance <https://www.uaba.io>

Despite massive cryptocurrency losses in the U.S. this year, a realistic concept of how this might be perceived if it happened on African crypto exchanges is advisable. Investors might not be forgiving and could sour, making it imperative to meet this challenge head-on and thwart any negative publicity that would shake investor confidence. Criminal activities like money laundering and funneling cash to terror organizations must be prevented with strong digital forensic infrastructure, and by monitoring blockchain bridges for alarming trends and red flags. Competition beckons: Dubai intends to

become a tech and crypto hub, and other countries will follow, as, undoubtedly, will hackers. It seems that Africa truly is on its way to becoming an IT tech hub for several business sectors, including fin-tech,

ecommerce, and, now, cryptocurrency and digital assets. A laudable milestone! Bravo, but mind how you go.

<https://www.moneycrashers.com/cryptocurrency-history-bitcoin-%20alternatives/> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/20/us/cryptocurrency-black-investors-reaaj/index.html> <https://marketrealist.com/cryptocurrency/are-crypto-bridges-unsafe/>

<https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/blockchain/https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2022-134> <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/29/deloitte-75-percent-of-retailers-plan-to-accept-crypto-payments>

[in-2-years.html https://news.bitcoin.com/sec-chair-gensler-bitcoin-is-a-commodity/](https://news.bitcoin.com/sec-chair-gensler-bitcoin-is-a-commodity/) <https://www.investors.com/how-to-invest/cryptocurrency-what-is-crypto/>

<https://www.cryptotimes.io/unctad-reports-reveals-kenya-tops-crypto-ownership-in-africa/> [https://theconversation.com/cryptocurrencies-are-gaining-ground-across-africa-thats-both-good](https://theconversation.com/cryptocurrencies-are-gaining-ground-across-africa-thats-both-good-news-and-bad-187141)

[news-and-bad-187141 https://www.coindesk.com/business/2022/05/11/mara-raises-23m-from-coinbase-alameda-to-spread-crypto-adoption-across-africa/](https://www.coindesk.com/business/2022/05/11/mara-raises-23m-from-coinbase-alameda-to-spread-crypto-adoption-across-africa/) <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2022/03/16/the-role-of-cryptocurrencies-in-subsaharan-africa/> [https://blogs.imf.org/2022/06/23/more-african-central-banks-are-exploring-digital-currencies/https://www.uaba.io/](https://blogs.imf.org/2022/06/23/more-african-central-banks-are-exploring-digital-currencies/)

# Newsbytes

## › Sports for Education and Economic Development's (SEED) Hoop Forum celebration, 10th - 14th August 2022, Senegal



*Markus Green Esq, Board Member, AGA-Africa*

Studies show that with the right safeguarding mechanisms in place, children (especially girls) engaged in sports from a young age are less likely to face abuse and violence. The SEED Project's community outreach to children through its Rise program and its high school-aged Elite Academy program uses the power of sports every day to improve the welfare of children and help safeguard boys and girls.

AGA-Africa representatives, **Markus Green Esq**, Board Member and **John Edozie**, International Advisor, attended the Sports for Education and Economic Development's Hoop Forum in Senegal which brought together Hoop Forum faithful and participants from across the Africa and Globe to exchange, learn, create and play on all that is basketball, youth, business, economic empowerment, development, arts, and culture.

As part of the 18th edition of the SEED Hoop Forum celebrations and in line with their mandate to provide African youth with safe access to sport and educational programming, SEED organized a Child and Sport Safeguarding Workshop that welcomed fifty participants across different sports entities from Senegal and around the world on 10th August 2022.

Facilitated by a team of experts, professional sports guest speakers, and internationally certified child and sports safeguarding professionals; the workshop was an opportunity for the participants and community to broaden their awareness as well as strengthen their knowledge and understanding of child and sports safeguarding, especially in the African context.



*A group photo of the delegates during the Hoop Forum*



*Amadou Gallo Fall, President of the Basketball Africa League (BAL), Markus Green Esq, Board Member, AGA-Africa and John Edozie, International Advisor, AGA-Africa*

## › Procurement Corruption & Fraud - Management of Informers & Contacts Workshop, 23rd – 25th August 2022 Lusaka, Zambia.

Procurement Fraud has in the recent past, emerged as a high-risk operational issue affecting not only institutions but also the economic stability of the countries across Africa. Procurement fraudulent practices are now highly prevalent in most procurement entities in the continent, affecting most sectors of the economy. There is, therefore, a need to equip law enforcement agencies with knowledge and skills to respond very quickly to this type of crime.

The workshop brought together 50 participants comprised of compliance officers, auditors, investigations and prosecution officers and procurement experts from Zambia Public Procurement Authority (ZPPA) and Zambia Institute of Purchasing and Supply (ZIPS).

The training sessions provided a platform for the Law Enforcement Institutions to network, share their

experiences on procurement fraud and identify common challenges they are facing while exploring strategies, tools and information for dealing with sophisticated crime in the procurement function.

**Dr. Freda Brazle**, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Zambia officially opened the training, with keynote addresses from **Mr. Raymond Chiboola**, Acting Director of Investigations, Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia, **Christopher Chibanku**, Cooperate Affairs Officer, Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia and **Markus Green Esq**; Board Member, AGA-Africa.

**Mr. Green** highlighted that procurement fraud is at the heart of corruption because it is easy to hide, noting that padded/no-bid contracts and kickbacks allow corruption to flourish; hence there is a need to close the skills gap to identify and stop corruption.



*Markus Green Esq; Board Member, AGA-Africa*



*Joseph Sciarrotta, Division Chief Counsel, Arizona Attorney General's Office*



*L-R: Markus Green Esq; Board Member, AGA-Africa, Dr Freda Brazle- AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Zambia, Musa Mwenya, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee and John Edozie, International Advisor, -AGA-Africa*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants*



*Faith Ng'ethe, OGW, Assistant Director-Asset Recovery, Asset Recovery Division, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Kenya*

## › Countering the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southern Africa, 24th-26th August 2022, South Africa

South Africa is home to 95,000 known species and it ranks as the third most biodiverse country worldwide according to the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Project. However, many of its wild species are threatened, which is highly detrimental to the country's biodiversity.

To support efforts to counter the illegal wildlife trade in southern Africa, AGA-Africa and the Good Governance Africa organised a 3-day training that brought together participants from law enforcement agencies, civil societies, expert researchers and private sector stakeholders and practitioners from Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and the USA. The training provided a platform for the participants to share best practices and experiences on the emerging trends in the illegal wildlife trade in Southern Africa and the intelligence-driven techniques needed to effectively dismantle and prosecute transnational criminal syndicates.

The event was officially opened by **Norma Tyili**, on behalf of **Kim Robinson**, the AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for South Africa, with keynote addresses from **Chris Maroleng**, Executive Director, Good Governance Africa and **Chukukere Unamba-Oparah**,

AGA-Africa Programme Director and Country Coordinator for Kenya.

In his opening remarks, **Chris Maroleng**, Executive Director, Good Governance Africa noted "It is through such trainings that we get to understand the true nature of the challenges we face as African countries which require urgent mitigation because it has a direct impact on humans across the African continent."

"Hence, it's important to have these engagements and look at problems such as the illicit wildlife trade using increasingly quantitative methods to analyse and assess these impacts through our governance insights and analysis programme," added.

The former president of Botswana **H. E Lt. Gen Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama**, attended the training. **Dr. Ian Khama** noted that AGA-Africa and Good Governance Africa are doing a commendable job in recognizing the importance of holding such a training and coming up with solutions for illicit wildlife trade. He also highlighted that during his tenure, Botswana received 11 International Awards in recognition of what they were able to accomplish for wildlife and the people and communities around the wildlife.



**H. E Lt. Gen Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama**, former fourth President of the Republic of Botswana



**Norma Tyili**, Conference Coordinator, AGA-Africa



**Chris Maroleng**, Executive Director of Good Governance Africa



**Chukukere Unamba-Oparah**, AGA-Africa Programme Director and Country Coordinator for Kenya



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and Good Governance Africa representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants*



*Chris Maroleng, Executive, Director of Good Governance Africa, Kim Robinson, AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for South Africa, H. E Lt. Gen Dr. Seretse Khama, Ian Khama, former fourth President of the Republic of Botswana, Chukukere Unamba-Oparah, AGA-Africa Programme Director and Country Coordinator for Kenya and Tshekeledi Khama II, Member of Parliament for Serowe West, Botswana*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa, Wildlife Investigators Training institute and Goog Governance Africa representatives*

## › Digital asset and Cryptocurrency: Legal, Regulatory and Cybersecurity Issues, 31st Aug. – 1st Sept. 2022, Nigeria

The digital financial ecosystem is fast developing and is getting complicated by the day as different countries seek to adopt a particular approach to digital assets. There are currently a vast number of different types of cryptocurrencies and digital assets in use, and more are coming every day. Therefore, it is imperative for advocates to familiarize themselves with the digital financial environment and the security issues that pervade this system.

The Digital Asset and Cryptocurrency workshop brought together participants from law enforcement agencies, legal counsel, treasury managers, risk management and compliance departments of financial institutions, capital market operators, insurance companies, fintech companies, regulatory authorities and regional and international subject matter experts from Kenya and the United States respectively.

The workshop provided a platform for the participants

to acquire in-depth knowledge of cryptocurrency and other digital assets while exposing them to the intrinsic regulatory and cybersecurity issues in the digital asset ecosystem.

“We look forward to an insightful engagement to learn about digital assets and we believe that we will achieve the objective of this programme in order to make an impact,” noted **Mr. Ikechukwu Uwanna** Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Lagos Branch in his opening remarks.

In her presentation, **Ms. Heather Martin**, Global Disputes Investigations & White Collar Defense at Jones Day highlighted that the United Arab Emirates ranks second with the second highest proportion of its population searching for the word “cryptocurrency” and the term “invest in crypto, with Nigeria being the most cryptocurrency-obsessed country in the world.



*Mr. Ikechukwu Uwanna  
Chairman, Nigerian Bar  
Association, Lagos Branch*



*Heather Martin,  
Global Disputes  
Investigations & White  
Collar Defense at Jones  
Day*



*Ebelechukwu Enedah , Partner at  
PUNUKA Attorneys & Solicitors and  
AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for  
Nigeria*



*Roger Geisler, Special  
Agent at Arizona Attorney  
General's Office*



*A group photo of AGA-Africa and the Nigerian Bar Association representatives with the workshop facilitators and participants*

## Upcoming Events – September 2022



### **Nigeria 13th – 14th September 2022**

Oral Advocacy and Electronic Evidence (Hybrid)- Kaduna State



### **South Africa 15th – 17th September 2022**

5th University of Pretoria International Consumer Law Conference (Hybrid)-  
University of Pretoria



### **Malawi 20th – 22nd September 2022**

Digital Evidence in the Prosecution of Corruption and Organized Crimes. (In-  
Person) – Anti-Corruption Bureau



### **Zambia 27th – 29th September 2022**

Economic Crimes Training – Judiciary (In person)

# Thank You

A big thank you to facilitators of the month:

## The Procurement, Corruption & Fraud Management of Informers and Contacts Training, Zambia

- **Joseph Sciarrotta**, Division Chief Counsel at Arizona Attorney General's Office
- **Faith Ng'ethe**, OGW, Assistant Director-Asset Recovery, Asset Recovery Division, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Kenya
- **Maureen Mwanza**, Director – Legal Services with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC)
- **Lennox Chilwa**, Principal Officer – Compliance Monitoring at the Zambia Public Procurement Authority
- **Bobby Chimuka**, Manager – Technical Services at the Zambia Public Procurement Authority
- **Rachael Mtengo**, Senior Human Resource Development Officer, Anti-Corruption Commission, Zambia
- **Miyoba Mukuba Sikazwe**, Senior Investigations Officer, Anti-Corruption Commission -Zambia
- **Adinas Phiri**, Fellow of the Zambia Institute of Purchasing and Supply
- **Dr Freda Mwamba Brazle**, Managing Partner, Innovatus Zambia and AGA-Africa Country Coordinator for Zambia

## Countering the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southern Africa, South Africa

- **Shawn Karns**, Executive Director of Wildlife Investigators Training Alliance
- **Stephanie Durno Karns**, Director of Operations for Wildlife Investigators Training Alliance
- **Dr. Ross Harvey**, Director of Research and Programmes, Good Governance Africa
- **Alastair Nelson**, Managing Director of Conservation Synergies
- **Ashwell Glasson**, Head of Academic Policy and Sector Advancement at the Southern African Wildlife College
- **Vincent Opyene**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Natural Resource Conservation Network, Uganda
- **Frances Craigie**, Chief Director: Enforcement at the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
- **Stephen Buchanan-Clarke**, Head of Good Governance Africa's Human Security and Climate Change Programme
- **Naomi Haupt**, Academic Policy Writing, Research, and Benchmarking Officer, University of the Free State
- **Charles Van Niekerk**, Lecturer in International and Regional Security, Wits School of Governance (WSG)
- **Jim Karani**, Attorney advising on criminal, animal, and environmental law in Kenya
- **Chukukere Unamba-Oparah**, Chief Executive Officer and Founding Director of Artikulate Company Ltd, in Nairobi, Kenya
- **Kim Robinson**, CEO Renaissance Strategic Solutions, Johannesburg, South Africa



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