Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Justice Uganda

The meeting was chaired by the Attorney General of Uganda Mr. William Byaruhanga, president of the Uganda Law society Mr. Francis Girama and Mr. John Edozie International Advisor CWAG AAP.

Mr. Byaruhanga signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CWAG Africa Alliance Partnership (CWAG AAP).

This partnership will enable CWAG AAP to work with members of the justice, law and order sector in Uganda to promote international and regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes such as cyber-crime, human trafficking and more which are on the rise globally.

Pictured above (left to right) Mr. Francis Girama – President of Uganda Law society, Mr. William Byaruhanga – Attorney General of Uganda and Mr. John Edozie –International Advisor CWAG AAP

CWAG APP International Advisor John Edozie revealed that through this partnership, they will share knowledge and expertise with partners on the African continent on transnational crimes. Mr Francis Gimara on behalf of Uganda Law society promised full support to the activities of the CWAG APP. He added that through this partnership lawyers will be equipped with knowledge on how to handle transnational crimes.

“As the Ugandan government we welcome all means of combating trans-border crime because we have been a victim of these crimes on various occasions.”

- William Byaruhanga, Attorney General of Uganda
Anti-Money laundering (AML) and Asset forfeiture in Lusaka, Zambia

The three day workshop held on 21st -23rd March 2018 on the topic ‘Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture’ was organized by the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) Africa Alliance Partnership in collaboration with National Prosecution Authority (NPA). The venue of the workshop was the New Government Complex in Lusaka, Zambia.

Uganda Law Society Annual Law Conference. Kampala, Uganda

Uganda Law Society hosted its 2nd Annual Law Conference under the theme; “The Legal Profession and Uganda’s Economic Development: Locating the Missing Link”. The conference brought together members of the legal fraternity and key stakeholders to discuss industry developments that have a bearing on the legal profession.

Mr. John Edozie, International Advisor CWAG African Alliance Partnership (CWAG AAP) spoke at the Conference after CWAG AAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry Of Justice Uganda in a new effort to combat transnational crimes.

“The CWAG Africa Alliance partnership would like to use this important forum to start a conversation with the Uganda Justice Law and Order Sector and its partners to collaborate on approaches to combating transnational criminal activity”

- John Edozie, International Advisor CWAG AAP

Ms. Lillian Siyunyi –Director of Public Prosecution NPA
The NPA is an autonomous body established by the National Prosecution Authority Act No.34 of 2010. The authority is in charge of prosecuting people charged with criminal offences. The workshop attracted over 45 participants who included representative from the Zambian Ministry of Justice, Ms. Lillian Siyuni – Director of Public Prosecution NPA, Mr. Likando kalaluka – Attorney General Republic of Zambia, CWAG AAP representatives and other members of various justice and law enforcement bodies.

Some of the topics covered were an overview of money laundering, investigation and prosecution of money laundering, non-Financial institutions susceptible to money laundering, cryptocurrencies & the dark web, types of forfeiture and code of professional conduct for asset forfeiture. Ms. Siyuni warned that money laundering could undermine the country’s economy and other currencies once left to flow into financial systems.

**Human Trafficking Conference. Abuja, Nigeria**

CWAG AAP in conjunction with National Agency for the Prohibition of Human Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) hosted a one day symposium and two day workshop on ‘The Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking’ in Abuja, Nigeria on February 5th – 7th 2018. NAPTIP was created by the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2003. The Agency is the Federal Government of Nigeria’s response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons. It is a fulfillment of the country’s international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons.

The symposium included participants from national and state law enforcement agencies, public service, the judiciary, civil rights associations, law schools and private law firms. Director-General, Dame Julie Okah-Donli while declaring open the Symposium said that as part of the Agency’s efforts to improve prosecution of trafficking cases in Nigeria, the Agency is engaging with all strata of society to understand their roles in the fight against human trafficking.

“We approach these financial crimes globally because what happens in Zambia affects the United States of America. Security wings should communicate and work together on this issue. They have to fight it from all angles.”

Markus Green – Board Member CWAG AAP

Pictured above (left to right) Silas Bala Sanga – AG Adamawa State, John Edozie – Legal Adviser CWAG AAP, Anthony DaSilva – Deputy Attorney General California Dept of Justice, Richard Lebel – TRAC Deputy Director, Dame Julie Okah-Donli – Director General NAPTIP, Amanda Plisner – Deputy Attorney General California Dept of Justice, Markus Green – Board Member CWAG AAP, Hon Joe Abang – AG Cross River State
Facilitators of the Month

Rich Lebel & Mathew Conti
In March 2018 two experienced justice and law enforcement officials; Rich Lebel and Mathew Conti, from CWAG led a 3 day workshop on ‘Anti Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture’ at the New Government Complex in Lusaka, Zambia. The workshop attracted a number of justice and law enforcement agencies and officials from Zambia. The course was well received and involved an interactive discussion where they got to discuss best practices and share experiences in combating money laundering.

Mathew Conti’s work in this section focused on investigation and prosecution of money laundering related offences through complex investigations, the use of court authorized electronic interception and means of drug or money interdiction. During his time at TRAC, Rich Lebel presented at several national and international conferences on the movement of illicit money though MSBs. Prior to becoming the Deputy Director at TRAC, Rich was a detective with the Phoenix Police Department. During this time he worked with various departments which were tasked with conducting long term investigations that target large scale drug-trafficking and money-laundering organizations.

Daniel Pietragallo
On the 27th-28th March 2018, the Uganda Law Society hosted its 2nd Annual Law Conference under the theme; “The Legal Profession and Uganda’s Economic Development: Locating the Missing Link”. Mr. Daniel Pietragallo, Deputy Attorney General of Colorado, was one of the expert panelists at the conference. He gave an in-depth and well-received presentation on Social media and the law; navigating the uneasy companionship and how to get it right.

Mr. Daniel Pietragallo, Deputy Attorney General of Colorado
Website Launch

After months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the launch of our new online home www.cwagaap.org

Our goal with this new website is to provide a platform for our partners, law enforcement officials and general public across Africa and all over the world, to learn about CWAG AAP’s role in promoting the rule of law and combating transnational crimes.

Our current and prospective partners will find useful information about our services on the homepage of our website. The blog and events will highlight past and upcoming workshops we have completed and outline the value created with each venture.

Let's get social!

The new website features integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to foster improved communication with our partners and general public to create awareness about transnational crimes and promote the rule of law.
TOP STORIES

1. Nigeria Passes Anti-Money Laundering Law
The Nigerian Parliament passed a law to tackle Money Laundering and funding of terrorism by allowing its financial intelligence unit to operate free of state control. The move is aimed at conducting a crackdown on endemic corruption afflicting the economy and law enforcement. Congratulations to the Nigerian Government on taking this bold step to fight corruption and money laundering.

2. Nigeria Wildlife Trafficking
Nigerian Customs Service intercepted elephant tusks and pangolin, worth about 1.2 billion naira($3.3) between February 15 and March 22. Illegal wildlife trade is still on the rise. Necessary steps need to be taken to combat wild trafficking and protect our wildlife.

3. Sleep Well Sudan
Sudan, the world’s last male northern white rhino died at the age of 45 at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. There are now only two northern white rhinos left on earth, mother and daughter, Najin and Fatu. We are now staring at the extinction of the Northern White Rhin. Sudan was a great ambassador for his species raising awareness globally of the plight facing not only rhinos, but the many thousands of other species facing extinction as a result of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. We must strengthen our resolve to tackle illegal wildlife trade!

4. Freedom Day
CNN Freedom Project is a humanitarian news media campaign that has been shining a light on modern day slavery. 40 million people are living in modern day slavery and denied their freedom. The campaign aims to create awareness to each and every human being around the globe to know their rights by answering the simple question, ‘what does freedom mean to you?’.

5. International Women’s Day
March 8th is a day solely dedicated to celebrate the existence of women in our lives. International Women’s Day is the opportunity to commemorate the struggle for women’s rights and celebrate the political, social, economic and cultural achievements of women. Did you know 98% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation are women and girls? Protection of women from violence is the responsibility of the state, community and families. Let us protect and empower our women at all costs.