INTER AGENCY FORUM ON STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE – SYMPOSIUM

Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) Ghana collaborated with CWAG AAP to host a symposium on the 14th May at the Accra Marriott Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The theme of the symposium was ‘An Inter-Agency Consultative Forum On The Strategies For Countering Counterfeit Drugs And Substance Abuse’ The aim of the symposium was for various stakeholders to share information and discuss solutions to curb the rise of counterfeit drugs and substance abuse in Ghana.

The forum brought together personnel from 46 agencies in Ghana to brainstorm on the issue. These included distinguished delegates such as; Her ladyship Mrs. Justice Sophia Adinyira – Supreme Court Judge, Mrs. Helen Akpene Ziwu – Solicitor General, Attorney Generals Department and Ministry of Justice, Dr Anerfi Baah – Former Deputy Director, WHO and many more.
Mrs. Delese Mimi Darko -CEO, Food and Drugs Authority Ghana made the opening remarks where she mentioned that production and trafficking of falsified medicines is a multi-billion illegal business driven largely by the lure of high financial gains, combined with the perceived low risk of detection.

Mr. Markus Green ESQ -CWAG AAP on behalf of CWAG welcomed the participants to the forum and outlined the key roles CWAG AAP plays in assisting developing countries combat transnational crimes. Mr. Markus reinforced his commitment to in helping FDA Ghana to address the challenges addressed in the forum. Hon. Kwaku Agyemang –Minister of Health, Ghana made a keynote address where he spoke on the rise of counterfeit drugs and urged the various agencies present to collaborate and develop proactive and sustainable measures to fight counterfeit drugs and drug abuse in Ghana.

Mr. Pierre Souverain -Global Security Director, Pfizer representing CWAG presented his detailed breakdown on the global perspective on the growth of counterfeit drugs. Mr. Vigil Prah Ashun -FDA highlighted the scale of counterfeit drugs and substance abuse in West Africa. He stated counterfeit drugs reduce the confidence in the health system but more importantly is a threat to human health.

Mrs. Olivia Boateng -FDA spoke on The Opioid Crisis and Substance Abuse. The growing trend of Tramadol abuse among Ghanaian youth has become a major issue for the health sector. Tramadol abuse can cause psychotic problems as well as damage vital organs. Dr. Akwasi Osei – CEO Mental Health Authority stated that “Out of the 300,000 attendances at the psychiatric hospitals, over 100,000 were related to drug abuse in 2017".

Ms. Obianuju Otudor -Punuka Attorneys & Solicitors representing CWAG AAP outlined the importance of cross agency collaboration to detect and prevent drug counterfeiting. Mrs. Audrey Francesca Dekalu -Ghana Journalist Association presented on ‘The Role of the Media’. Mrs. Dekalu said the media had over the years been an important ally in public health and a source of correct information as well as advocates of right positive health behaviour. Therefore, she urged the FDA to cultivate a strong collaboration between the authority and media in their educational campaign drive against Tramadol abuse and counterfeit drugs in Ghana.

The presentations culminated in an informative and interactive Panel Discussion moderated by Pierre Souverain workshop, participants chimed in with some of their own practices.
INTER AGENCY FORUM ON STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE - WORKSHOP

Food and Drugs Authority – Ghana (FDA) collaborated with CWAG AAP to host a workshop on the 15th May at the Accra Marriott Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The main aim of the workshop was to bring together various stakeholders to jointly brainstorm, formulate and develop strategies to address the spread of counterfeit drugs and substance abuse in Ghana.

The workshop brought together over 40 agencies from diverse background, these included; criminal justice officials, policy makers, healthcare practitioners, pharmaceutical industries, security agencies, law enforcers and the media. The forum enabled them to connect, share ideas and discuss strategies to combat counterfeit drugs.

The interactive case study group session led by Mr. Pierre Souverain gave the various stakeholders a platform to interact, analyze and develop ways they can collaborate in the fight against counterfeit drugs and substance abuse. The ideas and plans developed at the workshop will be used to develop a national strategic plan to address the rise of counterfeit drugs and substance abuse in Ghana.

"Combating counterfeit medicines and drug abuse is everyone’s responsibility, from government, industry, policy makers, civil society, media and right down to individual consumers."

- Hon. Kwaku Agyeman
Minister of Health Ghana
Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) - Malawi & Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) - Malawi collaborated with CWAG AAP to host a 2 day inter-agency workshop on ‘Anti Wildlife Trafficking’ at Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi from the 29th - 30th May 2018. The theme for the workshop was 'The sharing of knowledge and best practices on tactics for the arrest and prosecution of wildlife traffickers.' The workshop brought together representatives from Malawi’s Inter-agency Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit which includes the Police, Customs, Immigration, Wildlife, Forestry, Anti-Corruption Bureau, as well as the Judiciary.

Following the opening address by Mr. Reynock Matemba - Director General, ACB & Mr. Markus Green ESQ. – CWAG AAP, the workshop kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Janet Banda - Solicitor General and Director of Justice. Dr. Banda stated that porous borders, weak legal framework and being surrounded by countries with high cases of wild trafficking as major challenges Malawi is facing in her efforts to eliminate illegal wildlife trafficking.

Addressing the workshop, Mr. Andrew Herrup - Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Lilongwe stated that wildlife crime has become multi-faceted and transnational, prosecutors can no longer afford to go after small-time traffickers. There is need to take the steps required to tackle the sophisticated transnational criminal network spanning continents. And that the Anti-Wildlife Trafficking Workshop is a step in the right direction. Mr. Herrup expressed the United States Government’s support for Malawi’s sustained efforts to protect its wildlife resources.

Thereafter, Mr. Chiza Manda - DNPW spoke on illegal wildlife trade in Malawi and the Wildlife Amendment Act. Mr. Ipyana Musopole - ACB presented on the interface between corruption and Illegal wildlife trade.


The workshop ended on a high note as the participants and speakers got to interact during a class discussion and share various tools and techniques to combat wildlife trafficking. In his closing remarks Mr. Brighton Kumphedwa - Director, DNPW said the workshop would help to enhance skills among wildlife and police officers responsible for investigations, law enforcement and prosecution of wildlife traffickers.
INTER AGENCY FORUM ON STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. - ACCRA, GHANA

(L-R) Mr Ernest Bediako, President of PMAG, Her Ladship Justice Juliana Amonoo (Mrs.) Deputy Judicial Secretary, Ms. Edith Annan - WHO, Mrs. Olivia Boateng - FDA, Pierre Souverain - Pfizer, Her ladship Mrs. Justice Sophia - Supreme Court Judge, Mr. Markus Green ESQ, - CWAG AAP, Hon. Kwaku Agyemang - Minister of Health, Mrs. Delese Mimi - CEO, FDA, Dr. Akwasi Osei - CEO, MHA, Obianuju Otudor - CWAG AAP, Audrey Dekalu - Sub Editor, Ghana News Agency, Mrs. Helen Akyene - Solicitor General, Attorney Generals Department and Ministry of Justice, Mr. Vigil Prah Ashun - FDA & Henry Saji - Deputy Chief Inspecting Pharmacist, Pharmacy Council

Hon. Kwaku Agyemang – Minister of Health with Mr. Pierre Souverain - Global Security Director, Pfizer

Dr. Akwasi Osei – C.E.O, Mental Health Authority

SPEAKER: Obianuju Otudor
CWAG AAP - Punuku Attorneys & Solicitors
International Law Centre

cross-section of symposium delegates & speakers
A big thank you to our CWAG Facilitators; Demi Herman, Shawn Karns & Detective Chris Clementson all the way from United States of America. A big thank you to Pierre Souverain from Pfizer, our seasoned litigators from Nigeria, Obianuju Otudor & Malunga Pangani from Zambia. Not forgetting Ipyana Musopole from Malawi and other distinguished speakers. If it were not for them such informative and valuable workshops would not have been possible.

**INTER AGENCY FORUM ON STRATEGIES FOR COUNTERING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. - ACCRA. GHANA**

**Pierre Souverain**
Pierre Souverain spent the first 10 years of his professional career within the French army before joining in 2002 the pharmaceutical industry. Preliminary in charge of physical security, including assets and people protection, he joined in 2005 the Sanofi-Aventis product integrity team. In 2008, he integrated the Global Security department of Pfizer, one of the world largest research-based pharmaceutical company, as Security Director for Europe Middle East and Africa. He is in charge of the development and the implementation of Anti-counterfeiting programs in Africa to protect the patients from the risks that counterfeit medicines pose to the public health.

**Obianuju Otudor**
Uju has practical and vast experience in Intellectual Property matters, Brand Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting. She has represented and has advised blue-chip companies for over a decade, on areas of I.P Litigation/ prosecution matters, Trademark Opposition proceedings, market intelligence on counterfeiting activities. She holds the WIPO Worldwide Academy Certificate in Intellectual Property and a Certificate on Copyright from Harvard Law School. She is a committee member of UnReal Campaign (a public awareness initiative designed to educate teenagers (ages 14-18) about the importance of Trademarks, Intellectual Property, and dangers of Counterfeit products) for the International Trademark Association (INTA). She is also an International contributor for Nigeria and Ghana for INTA Opposition Guidelines.

Nigerian Law School (B.L.), University of Lagos Nigerian Bar Association, I.P Law Association of Nigeria (IPLAN), I.P committee Section on Business Law(NBA), Anti-Counterfeiting Collaboration of Nigeria (ACC), International Trademark Association (INTA), (INTA) Trademark Office Practice Committee, Africa, (INTA)
ANTI WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP – LILONGWE MALAWI

Demi Herman
Demi graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota with a B.A. in Criminal Justice & Sociology. Upon graduating law school, Demi began working for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in 2001. She worked from 2008–2013 as the Chief Deputy in Platte County, Nebraska handling the felony caseload until she transferred to the Saunders County Attorney's office where she has been since 2013. Demi Herman is a career prosecutor currently handling felony level criminal cases in Saunders County, Nebraska. Demi has experience handling a wide range of cases ranging from thefts, assaults and drug cases to child victim crimes, domestic violence and sexual assault. She has a particular interest in protecting the well-being of children and victims who must testify in Court.

Shawn Karns
After obtaining his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Shawn began his career in 1994 as a state officer in Mississippi where he received training and experience in wildlife crimes. In 1998, he transferred to Tennessee where he was the operative in a long-term international investigation into aquatic resource crimes. He currently conducts multiple long-term investigations focusing on wildlife crimes and offenses. Shawn is a Criminal Investigator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Special Investigations Unit based out of Nashville, TN. He is responsible for conducting complex investigations into wildlife crimes specifically, those that involve commercialization, transportation and total disregard for regulations and laws. He has participated in investigations in over fifteen states. Shawn is a board member of the Wildlife Investigators Covert Academy and annually serves as a presenter and instructor to state and federal investigators from across the United States.

Detective Chris Clementson
Detective Clementson served on active-duty as a Military Policeman for six years. Upon returning to civilian life, Detective Clementson earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, with a Marine Emphasis. He later took a job as a Police Officer for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and eventually took a career position with WDFW as an Enforcement Officer. Detective Clementson has worked for WDFW for over thirteen years. He is currently the agency's Senior Detective. His investigative focus is “white collar crime,” primarily associated with the geoduck harvest or export, king crab import, and the commercial ivory/protected species industries. His relevant civilian trainings include: Ivory Identification Training (USFWS Forensic Lab) and numerous import/export; internet-based and financial crime investigative trainings such as Counter Terror/Threat Finance, Money Laundering, and Asset Forfeiture. After an extended break in his military service, Detective Clementson re-engaged with the US Army Reserve, where he concurrently serves as a Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent.
Malunga Pangani

After graduating in 2012 with a law degree from the University of Zambia, Malunga joined a law firm where she gained a wealth of experience in corporate law. In 2016 she joined Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) as a legal assistant due to her interest in contributing to conservation efforts in Zambia. At WCP she leads the Wildlife Criminal Justice program, a specialist wildlife law unit consisting of six Zambian lawyers in supporting the Zambian governments effort in prosecuting wildlife crime.

Ipyana Musopole

Ipyana has worked with the Anti-Corruption Bureau Malawi since 2001. He is a holder of two master's degree, one in Leadership and Change Management (Leeds Becket University 2013) and the other in Anti-Corruption Studies (International Anti-Corruption Academy-2017) He currently serves as the Chief Corruption Prevention Officer. His work entails working with Public and Private institutions to identify and implement appropriate anti-corruption interventions to manage the risk of corruption and fraud. He has worked with in excess of forty public institutions in a range of areas mainly involving conducting Anti-corruption/fraud training, consulting work in developing Anti-Corruption Policy frameworks and providing technical support in anti-corruption-related issues in public and private institutions.

He is currently serving on the interagency Committee for Combating Wildlife Crimes as vice chairman where in addition he has facilitated a number of wildlife trainings.

Explore The Warm Heart Of Africa, Malawi

Malawi, a hidden jewel nestled in the southeast Africa. Malawi is often called the Warm Heart of Africa for the kindness of its people. Situated at the end of the Great Rift, Malawi is a mix of pristine golden beaches, plateaus, mountains, forests, rivers and tea plantations. Malawi has borne the brunt of poaching and has undergone decades of rehabilitation. Home to beautiful parks like Majete, Liwonde and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, wildlife enthusiasts have the opportunity to view the Big Five.

In 2017 Malawi underwent on of the largest elephant translocation in history. Where over 500 elephants were successfully moved from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve, and were released in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. An initiative by African Parks, conservation NGO and Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

source: african-parks.org
aimed at repopulating Nkhotakota with indigenous species, and restoring it to its former glory. The translocation saw Prince Harry; now Duke of Sussex, visit Liwonde and assist African Parks with relocating the first half of the elephants. 

Lake Malawi is one of the main attractions of the country. It’s the ninth largest lake in the world and the 3rd largest lake in Africa. Lake Malawi National Park was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. It is home to more species of fish than any other lake. World renowned for its crystal-clear blue waters, the lake is said to provide the best freshwater diving in Africa.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) Malawi is one of the safest countries in Africa. Malawi ranks safer than many African countries including popular tourist destinations such as, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia.

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**Upcoming Events**

**JUNE**

**Ogun State, Nigeria**
25th – Conference on Human Trafficking
26th – Workshop on Effective Administration of Criminal Justice

**JULY**

**Kigali, Rwanda**
17th – 20th Electronic Evidence Gathering – East Africa Law Society
**Nairobi, Kenya;**
22nd – 27th Annual Conference, African Bar Association

**AUGUST**

**Maputo, Mozambique**
16th – 17th SADC Lawyers Association AGM

**Lusaka, Zambia:**
20th – 22nd Workshop on Human Trafficking – National Prosecution Authority
23rd – 24th Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering – Anti Corruption Commission

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