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WWF-Norway Fraud Report 2022

Fraud and corruption continue to be taken seriously in WWF. Negative consequences are extensive, affecting local communities and their natural resources both in a short-term and long-term manner. WWF-Norway is committed to transparency in order to uphold trust from all our stakeholders and to ensure funding for our conservation work. In line with the WWF-Norway Fraud/Corruption Prevention and Investigation Policy, this annual report provides the current status pertaining to fraud and corruption allegations potentially involving either WWF-Norway directly, or funds that WWF-Norway has provided, either from the Norwegian government or funds raised from the public.

Work to enhance control and compliance in 2022

In 2021 WWF-Norway used the updated [Network Standard on Prevention of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption](#) to review our WWF-Norway Fraud/Corruption Prevention and Investigation Policy, which contains guidance on preventing and reviewing corruption, including a legal review to confirm we are compliant with the latest legislation in Norway as well. The updated version was finalised and presented to the WWF-Norway Board for review and sign-off in February 2022 and has been used subsequently to guide our work in this area. This policy is subject to review on a regular basis and at least every three years.

In 2022, WWF-Norway has continued to focus on improving our control functions ensuring ongoing enhancement of procedures related to transfer of funds abroad and improved capacity for control of budgets and financial reports.

In all allegations of fraud, whether confirmed or not, WWF-Norway works with network partners to ensure they have reviewed systems and procedures and implement improvements where relevant.

Cases concluded in 2022 – fraud/corruption detected, no funds related to WWF-Norway

In July 2022, a whistle-blower alleged that a member of WWF staff in the Uganda Country Office had misused covid related emergency funds for personal use and also not followed policies with regards to the use of a company credit card. Following a review, irregularities were uncovered, but none of the funds related to WWF-Norway or Norwegian funds. Following a disciplinary process, the contract of the staff member concerned was terminated and they have left WWF.

Cases concluded in 2022 – fraud/corruption not detected

In 2022 we had no cases reported and concluded where fraud was not detected.

Investigations ongoing at end 2022 – conclusions pending

In November 2021, during a routine review of accounts in WWF Democratic Republic of Congo (WWF DRC) Country Office, suspicions arose that some cheques had been issued fraudulently by staff from within the WWF Kinshasa office. A formal investigation into this matter was launched in 2022 and concluded that fraud had taken place over a period from 2017 to 2021. No funds related to WWF-Norway or Norwegian funds were impacted. Several staff have left WWF DRC and corrective measures have been put in place to improve the systems and procedures in the office, but we are still awaiting some final reporting.

In November 2022 WWF Madagascar Country Office received a whistle-blower complaint from one of their NGO partners against another NGO partner, who WWF Madagascar supports with funds from WWF-Norway, alleging duty of care negligence and possible bullying allegations. WWF Madagascar has commissioned an investigation and suspended further grant payments to the NGO concerned until the investigation has taken place and is concluded.