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WWF-Norway Fraud Report 2024

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 2024

Throughout 2024, WWF-Norway's two Programme Controllers and the PSP Manager have actively participated in the Norwegian Anti-corruption Network. The network has met on a quarterly basis for mutual exchange and learning. This has contributed in the ongoing process within WWF-Norway to strengthen the organisation's procedures and system for handling of reported financial irregularities. As part of this, WWF-Norway has continued to enhance the communication with partners related to whistleblowing and transparency on suspected cases.

Important lessons are learned from the process related to conclusion of the 2023 Madagascar case as described below, not least related to how WWF-Norway can support partners in management of external investigations and related reporting. In that process, WWF-Norway also collaborated with WWF-Sweden to support WWF-Madagascar as SIDA funding was also affected. Going forward, closer dialogue and collaboration across the Northern European WWF organisations channelling the largest amounts of public donor funds will be sought.

On the overall WWF Network level, the independent Office of the Ombudsperson has become operational during the year, and will be opening for further case-handling in 2025 related to all types of complaints.

Cases concluded in 2024 – fraud/corruption detected

There have been no new cases reported in 2024.

The external investigation related to the WWF-Madagascar partner case reported in April 2023 was concluded and submitted to Norad with a management response in April 2024. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, WWF-Madagascar terminated the contract with the partner. A repayment of NOK 16,000 has been made to Norad upon the agency's closure of the case.

Cases concluded in 2024 – fraud/corruption not detected

There have been no new cases reported in 2024, and no cases have been concluded.

Investigations ongoing at end 2024 – conclusions pending

There are no ongoing investigations related to WWF-Norway's funding streams.