

Senior Financial Investigation Specialist – Illegal Wildlife Trafficking

Job title:	Regional Investigation Advisor IWT
Place of work:	Based in Nairobi, Kenya, with frequent travel in Sub-Saharan Africa
Employment rate:	100%
Start date:	1 April 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter
Contract type:	Initially for two years with possibility of extension
Reporting:	Team Leader Intelligence / Program Coordinator IWT

Basel Institute on Governance

The Basel Institute on Governance is an international and independent not-for-profit organisation working worldwide with the public and private sector to counter corruption and other financial crimes and to improve the quality of governance. Registered as a Swiss foundation with headquarters in Basel, the Institute operates globally and maintains field operations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. The Basel Institute is an Associated Institute of the University of Basel.

Background

Financial crime is a key facilitator of a wide range of serious crimes, including illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT). IWT networks are known to resort to financial crime at every stage of their trade. Bribes are widely used by poaching networks to facilitate their illegal business and induce officials to look the other way and be co-opted into their operations. IWT kingpins and their corrupt facilitators are depending on functioning international money laundering systems in order to benefit from their crimes and re-invest part of the profit in more IWT or other illegal trafficking activities. Corrupt institutions and socio-political networks are major enablers of IWT and undermine any meaningful anti-IWT efforts. At the grassroots level, this can lead to social acceptability of IWT.

While it is now widely acknowledged, and reiterated in numerous international policy forums, that efforts to tackle financial crime can contribute significantly to reduce IWT, concrete action and tangible results from this approach are still far and few apart. Critical gaps remain between the significant amount of valuable but scattered and underused (financial) intelligence and the effective use of this intelligence for enforcement and preventative action across the whole spectrum of concerned actors. To help address this gap, the Basel Institute is establishing a new multi-disciplinary programme of work consisting of systematic, intelligence-led action focused on uncovering and targeting illicit financial flows and coordination across public, private and non-governmental sector actors.

The programme seeks to complement existing conservation efforts at the grassroots and valuable training efforts and international policy dialogue with an action oriented on-the-ground program. Working hand-in-hand with key law enforcement partners in supply countries, the programme of work tackles institutional blockages and seeks to enhance the ability of these agencies to investigate and prosecute transnational IWT-related financial crimes, analyse and produce actionable intelligence on related criminal networks, and cooperate regionally and internationally in this endeavour.

Profile and responsibilities

This position will be responsible for advising law enforcement partners in Sub-Saharan Africa in devising and implementing financial investigation strategies in relation to IWT cases and promoting regional cooperation in this area. In addition, this position will advise on and facilitate regional and international intelligence-sharing and judicial cooperation to enhance international asset tracing and recovery. This will be combined with ad hoc and structured capacity building of key staff in partner agencies. The incumbent will also be responsible for developing agreements with agencies and developing a platform for full-time embedded advisors. Working closely with the Team Leader Intelligence and the Basel Institute's Senior Investigation Specialist in Kenya, specific responsibilities include:

- Provide accurate and actionable guidance to law enforcement partners on investigative and international cooperation related to IWT cases and proactively support their enforcement strategies;
- Assist with the dissemination of IWT-related intelligence reports and analytic products to law enforcement partners and monitor feedback with a view to continuous improvement;
- Facilitate cooperation in intelligence-led cross-border investigations between supply, transit and demand countries and with relevant financial centres, including through regional meetings and case specific advice;
- Assess skills gaps in partner agencies, recommend targeted capacity-building initiatives and assist in the design and delivery of a variety of advanced financial crime-focused courses and training materials for law enforcement partners;
- Support the development and deployment of relevant technologies, tools and technical frameworks and processes to promote efficiency and cooperation in the investigation of IWT cases;
- Support efforts to engage with new partner agencies, set up appropriate working structures and promote efficient and effective coordination;
- Regularly liaise and engage with national and international law enforcement and other governmental and non-governmental partners on issues around wildlife trafficking and related organised crimes;
- Build and sustain relationships and maintain a wide contact network relevant and useful to Basel Institute counter wildlife trafficking and law enforcement/financial investigation initiatives.

Requirements

- At least 10 years of practical work experience in the area of combating financial crimes and asset recovery, e.g. as a senior financial investigator for such cases, of which at least 6 years in the context of complex, multi-jurisdictional investigations and/or prosecutions;
- Understanding of and experience with applying the relevant international standards in these domains;
- Awareness and preferably experience in investigating cases related to IWT;
- Experience with training and capacity building, including mentoring and developing/delivering targeted and hands-on training courses to professionals;
- Ability to build and maintain collaborative working relationships within enforcement agencies and with senior government employees;
- Experience working in developing countries, ideally including East and Southern Africa;
- Ability to travel and work independently in challenging operational environments;
- Fluency in English; knowledge of other languages, particularly Kiswahili, an advantage.

Offer

We offer an interesting and rewarding working environment with a proactive, dynamic and international team spirit. The work is both routine and varied and offers scope for initiative and innovation. The salary is competitive.

Application

Please send your written application (CV, letter of motivation, reference letters and contact details of three professional references; all documents merged in one PDF file), at your earliest convenience, but no later than 28 March 2019 by email to: application@baselgovernance.org

For further information on the role, contact Timothy Wittig, Team Leader Intelligence, Basel Institute on Governance (timothy.wittig@baselgovernance.org).