



UNAFRI

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Governing Board Chairperson visits





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UNAFRI Governing Board Chairperson visits Secretariat

The Chairperson of UNAFRI's Governing Board, Ms Rose Mutombo Kiese, who is also the Minister of State for Justice and Constitutional Affairs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), made her inaugural visit to the Secretariat in April this year. The visit was in fulfilment of assurances she made when a UNAFRI delegation from Kampala visited her in Kinshasa, on 21st October 2021.

Although Ms Mutombo was in Uganda for several other official engagements, she found time to perform her Board duties at UNAFRI. The Acting Director, John Sembuya Ssali, thanked her for the hospitality accorded to his delegation last year. He exalted her for continued guidance on policy matters, as directed by the Government Board. He said her wise counsel had galvanised UNAFRI into implementing the road-map. UNAFRI, which is an inter-government organisation, has a main remit of promoting active cooperation of African governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, and experts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Her visit to the Secretariat was therefore a milestone in the roadmap of outstanding activities in governance,

management, mobilization, guidance, policy development and programme implementation. Mr Sembuya said her visit would strengthen the Institute's wider mandate. This includes helping mobilize human, material and administrative potential; promotion of sustainable development; and strengthening of crime prevention and control capacity in the Africa region.

Mr Sembuya gave Ms Mutombo an overview of current programmes such as research, policy development, training, documentation, information dissemination, and advisory services to various governments. He hailed the Uganda government for its generous offer to host the Institute by availing over 20 hectares of prime land, in Nakawa, in addition to offices and residential houses to UNAFRI.

He briefed the Chairperson on efforts to recruit professional staff from various member States. Currently, all Professional International staff slots are vacant. Plans are underway to recruit a Director, as directed by the Government Board, at its 7th Extraordinary Meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 18 February 2020).



Ms Mutombo receives a souvenir, in tribute to her inaugural visit, from the Ag. Director John Sembuya Ssali

And, following a request by the Uganda Government, the post of UNAFRI Deputy Director, which is the only professional post open to Ugandans, the chairperson further learnt that the Uganda government had already raised concern at the delayed recruitment of the Deputy Director and that a letter to this effect had already been sent to her for further guidance.

He explained further that out of 16 support staff posts, nine (9) are occupied while seven (7) are vacant. The unoccupied additional posts arose out of a recommendation by Consultants who carried out the system wide review of the Institute in 2014. Mr Sembuya advised that in order for the Institute to perform to its envisaged capacity, all posts, particularly Professional International staff, must be filled.

Financial Resources

The Institute derives its financial resources from three main sources. These include:

- (1). UN Grant;
- (2). Member State Annual Assessed Financial contributions; and
- (3). Rental income (including leasehold ground rent).

He informed the Chairperson that the minimum annual budgetary requirement, to execute some of the mandated programmes was United States dollars three million (US\$3,000,000) only.

However, due to low levels of response to their financial obligations, payment of Annual Assessed Financial Contribution(s) by member States, is less than one third of the anticipated receipts from member States. This state of affairs had negatively impacted recruitment of professional staff and execution of the mandated programme.

Current Programme

Despite operating on an inadequate resource envelope, management of the Secretariat has endeavoured to undertake the following:

- (a) A Training course in International Human Rights Law and Pre-trial Detention;
- (b) A regional Workshop on Judicial Cooperation in Prosecuting Terrorism and related offences;
- (c) Participated in the PNI (Institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

Network) activities, most of which are on-line.

- (d) Procured and installed equipment such as CCTV Cameras (Closed Circuit Television Cameras), on-line communication equipment; computers and furniture for the Training conference Hall; and constructed perimeter walls on the residence and offices of the Institute.

Current Challenges

- (a) Lack of adequate resources due to irregular payment of Annual Assessed Financial Contributions by member States;
- (b) Lack of Professional Staff, to plan and execute approved programmes;
- (c) Lack of a capital fund to construct an office block;
- (d) All the Institute vehicles are too old and require replacement;
- (e) Renovation work, at the residential premises, has slowed, due to lack of funds.

Land Matters

He reported that land and houses granted to UNAFRI, at the time of being hosted by Uganda, had become an issue for attention of the Chairperson to resolve.

Demarcation of land was done, and a title deed was issued. However, in the implementation of its programmes to develop the land, there had been challenges.

He appealed to the Chairperson to allow the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on her behalf, together with the Secretariat, to engage the Uganda Government, with regard to the facilities offered to UNAFRI, and report to her, for eventual tabling to the UNAFRI Governing Board Meeting, at its 12th Ordinary Session.

In response, Ms Mutombo appreciated the warm welcome accorded to her and her delegation. She expressed joy at visiting the Secretariat for the first time and acknowledged the Acting Director's submission. She pledged to give her attention to all issues narrated.

The Acting Director presented her with a UNAFRI plaque in tribute to her inaugural visit.



Above: Ms Mutombo is received at the Institute. Below: Ms Mutombo in a group photo with UNAFRI staff and visitors.





Above: Ms Mutombo receives a plaque from the Ag. Director Sembuya Ssali. Below: The chairperson being seen off.



PNI Interviews UNAFRI Director



As explained in our earlier edition of the UNAFRI Newsletter, the Institute was invited to be a member of the PNI Editorial Board. The PNI is the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes.

PNI launched its first ever Newsletter in April this year. In that edition, there was an exclusive interview of UNAFRI's Acting Director, Mr John Sembuya Ssali. Below is a reproduction of the said interface.

INTERVIEW WITH UNAFRI ACTING DIRECTOR JOHN SEMBUYA SSALI

John Sembuya Ssali, the Acting Director of UNAFRI (the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders), has worked at UNAFRI for over fifteen years. Starting as the Finance Officer and later the acting Director of the Institute, his role is to provide leadership in the development and implementation of the substantive work programme, including fund-raising.

How many people work at the UNAFRI and what is the mix of roles?

At full capacity, the Institute's workforce is twenty-two staff members: six professional international staff, eight national officer middle managers and eight support staff. The Institute employs researchers, lawyers, financial analysts and social scientists.

Who are UNAFRI's key stakeholders and how do you interact with them?

UNAFRI's stakeholders are primarily African member States, academia, and members of the international community. We have our focal point persons in every African member State. In addition, the Technical Advisory Committee, which is part of the governance structure of UNAFRI's Governing Board, is composed of 11 representatives of African Governments. We also communicate regularly with heads of universities.

What does a regular day look like for you?

A normal working session involves checking for updates on the implementation of directives from the Governing Board, and the status of the resolutions for mobilization of support from stakeholders; oversight of programme implementation by the Technical Committee of the Institute, some activities of which are shared with professional networks; aligning Institute programmes with the guidelines of the United Nations Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; organising regular meetings of the Management Committee and its subcommittees; attending to staff matters; and other routine issues. We close at five pm, although this can be adjusted depending on unforeseen urgent matters regarding the Institute.

What research/teaching areas will be key for (UNAFRI/you) over the next twelve months?

UNAFRI's research/teaching areas focus on the programme of activities based on the needs of the member States and the themes of the UN Crime Commission (transnational organized crime and human rights projects).

What's the most interesting research you/ UNAFRI have undertaken recently?

The research project on prison management in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

What would your "elevator pitch" be to promote the work of UNAFRI?

Since UNAFRI's funding mostly depends on contributions from member States (90%), UNAFRI needs to enhance its visibility by offering activities to member States (and other African non-member States). Publication of the Newsletters highlighting our activities must be maintained and widely circulated. Funding should be made available for travel so that UNAFRI can explore with different member States the possibility of UNAFRI providing them with advisory services on request. Research on emerging crime trends should be undertaken with the findings widely circulated and shared with member States and partner agencies.

Are there any major events involving UNAFRI over the next twelve months?

Absolutely. The United Nations Crime Commission and the annual PNI coordination meetings are due to be held in Vienna in May 2022; UNAFRI shall definitely attend. Currently we have completed phase one of the recruitment of the Director (shortlisting), and the second phase of interviewing is slated for early June 2022. Our schedule of regional workshops, starting with training in capacity building and judicial cooperation in prosecution, investigations of terrorism and related offences, is planned to take place during the third week of May 2022.

What new or emerging areas of research are you interested in exploring?

Cybercrime; gender violence (domestic violence) and human rights research; youth unemployment and criminality; firearms control programmes; mutual legal assistance, extradition programmes; environmental crime.

What advice would you give to a new researcher/educator keen to work for UNAFRI?

Such a person should have an interest in Africa's pursuit of implementation of Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the work of your organization? What has

been the response of your organisation in addressing challenges posed by Covid-19?

The pandemic has continued to limit physical contact and as a result, the number of beneficiaries of the Institute's programmes, due to lack of freedom of association attributed to constant fear of infection, has been reduced to the bare minimum. However, the Institute has maintained the internationally recognised health precautionary measures, such as the standard operating procedures (SOPs); promoting on-line meetings/discussions; and ensuring mandatory staff vaccination programmes.

Apart from the challenges, do you find any opportunities arising from the Covid-19 situation?

Yes, a number of opportunities have arisen from the pandemic. These include overhauling our IT system, to meet the current technological information systems, in order to host the various advanced digital platforms. The staff have been introduced to the new digital appliances. We have also started online workshops and training using Zoom, thereby reducing travel costs and daily subsistence allowances to course participants.

What are the opportunities offered by being a member of PNI?

PNI offers opportunities for collaboration with other institutes whose experts promote the sharing of good practices, knowledge, and strategic programme accomplishments. There are prospects of in-house mutual support on a range of needs for technical expertise.

We are working closely with UNODC, ILANUD, UNICRI, UNAFEI, RWI and HEUNI. We were given an opportunity to present the implementation of thematic themes developed from the Kyoto Declaration prepared by the UN Crime Commission. UNAFRI is also a member of the PNI Newsletter Editing Board.

What are the challenging parts of your job?

The major challenge is inadequate funding. This has led to the exodus of professional international staff due to inadequate remuneration. The Institute has been without a substantive Director for over ten years due to lack of adequate resources to attract and retain high-calibre international staff.

UNAFRI team in Nairobi over Small Arms Trafficking

A team from the Institute flew into Nairobi, Kenya, on 30th May 2022 and held an inaugural meeting with officials at the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA). The need for collaboration between UNAFRI and RECSA stems from the need to revive a project implemented by UNAFRI on trafficking of firearms in Africa in 2000.

The project stalled primarily due to resource deficiency. There was lack of human, financial and logistical support. The urge to implement the project to its totality has since remained an outstanding ideal for UNAFRI. The cardinal project focus was and still is the establishment of an African Firearms Centre to help African countries address the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the region.

UNAFRI's collaboration is informed by its Prospectus which focuses on implementation of selected themes of the Kyoto Declaration, and calls for a comprehensive and multilateral approach to prevent crime. There is need, therefore, for explicit linkages to existing institutional perspectives, which drive the push towards transformation in operations. Exploitation of diversity without duplication of efforts is the best avenue forward because it enhances effectiveness in implementation of joint projects.

Both UNAFRI and RECSA expressed the need for cooperation. Commitment to that effect was made on the basis of the strength of mandates defining programme activities for the two institutions. It was noted that the interplay of factors, which define the programmes of both institutions, reflects common aspirations to serve Africa in pursuit of its socio-economic development agenda.

It was noted that illicit arms were fuelling criminal activity, which is detrimental to security of persons and property. The Nairobi Protocol gives RECSA the mandate to implement activities aimed at the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.

The protocol was entered into by Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda in 2000. It was premised on the concern about proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa; triggering devastating consequences. Among the consequences of illicit arms was/ is the fuelling of armed conflict and armed crime; degrading the environment; heightening legal exploitation of natural resources; and abetting of terrorism and other serious crimes in the region.

UNAFRI's remit, on the other hand, emanates from the UN and several African countries. It is charged with the responsibility of devising mechanisms to fight crime and to strengthen criminal justice.

RECSA has therefore found a suitable platform for implementation of its programmes on a wider platform; with a wider outreach, given the strengths of UNAFRI's membership to the global Network of Institutes for Crime Prevention and criminal justice (PNI).

Fulfilment of the statutory task by RECSA is an immense programme, which cannot be ably handled by one entity. The Executive Secretary of RECSA Lt. Gen. Badreldin Elamin Abdelgaddir therefore welcomed the proposal from UNAFRI to work together as an on-going concern. He committed to fulfilling whatever is reasonably possible to institutionalize the partnership between UNAFRI and RECSA. He looked forward to the benefits of the partnership, based on the similarity of their mandate. He stressed that what was required was coordination of programmes with other agencies, using various skills to make informed decisions in respect of controlling the flow of illicit arms.

The meeting agreed on the development of a working framework to define the cooperation. This will be achieved through interaction and harmonisation of programmes of both institutions; to be defined in a Memorandum of



Above: Lt. Gen. Badreldin Elamin Abdelgaddir, (C), Executive Secretary of RECSA, poses for a photo with the UNAFRI delegation and other RECSA Staff.

Below: The meeting getting underway.



Understanding (MoU) to underscore the crucial role of the African Centre for Firearms in regulating the use and ownership of firearms in the Africa region.

Criminal justice systems in Africa will have a lot to gain by applying global and regional instruments in controlling small arms and light weapons, within the action plans of the African Firearms Centre.

At an opportune time, the MoU will be signed by both parties. This was envisaged to be on the occasion of a return visit by RECSA to UNAFRI, in Kampala.

The RECSA delegation comprised senior police officers from various member States of RECSA. The UNAFRI

team included Andrew Munanura, the Legal and Training Consultant; and Patrick Mwaita, the Programme Officer, Research & Training.

In the context of the Kyoto Declaration, due recognition in the fight against crime requires a multi-sectoral approach. On the basis of comparative advantage available at RECSA and UNAFRI, Africa will benefit in terms of technical assistance to be derived from partnering agencies. Competences in both institutions will be crucial in the management of the African Centre for Firearms Control to be established in Kampala under the auspices of UNAFRI, with support from agencies such as RECSA with related mandates.

A Snapshot of the Uganda Police Annual Crime Report



*The Uganda Police Force recently tabled the 2020--2021 National Crime Report
Here below is a synopsis by our Media Consultant*

More Thieves

Theft and sex-related offences increased in Uganda over the past one year. According to the Annual Crime Report released by the Police, in May, there was a spike in the number of thieves in the country. By the end of 2021, a total of 43,583 theft cases were reported in comparison to 41,950 cases in the preceding year 2020. This signalled a percentage increase of 3.8.

Theft of motorcycles increased by 22.8% while that of cattle to 3.4%. Stealing of mobile phone handsets increased by 2.4 per cent.

Sex-related offences

According to the report, sex-related offences increased by 1.4 per cent, in comparison to the previous year. In the year under review, 2021, a total of 16,373 sex-related cases were reported. These accounted for eight per cent of the total number of cases filed at the police; compared to 16,144 in the year 2020.

The report portrays that a total of 16,545 persons were victims of this heinous crime in the year 2021. Out of that number, a total of 14,482 were female juveniles. Another 378 were male juveniles while 1,636 were adult females. Only 49 adults were adult males.

In a similar vein, cases of defilement also soared. A total of 14,570 cases of defilement were reported to the police in 2021. In the preceding year, only 14,230 cases were captured by the police. This reflected an increase of 2.3 per cent in defilement cases.

The figures are a litmus test of how Ugandan society is slowly but surely being swamped by a crime that never featured prominently in several decades past. The figures signal that enforcement officers, researchers, academics, civil society and opinion leaders have a lot on their plates; to delve further into the subject and find out the root causes of the growing trend; especially of child abuse; and how it can be stemmed.

Trafficking in Persons

According to the report, the police registered only 421 cases in 2021 compared to only 214 cases in the year 2020. The police further report that a total of 1,149 people were victims of trafficking in comparison to 666 victims recorded in the previous year. According to these figures, an extra 483 people were trafficked within a span of one year. Although these figures slightly vary from another official report released by the Immigration Directorate (see story on *'Human Trafficking: Over 1,000 Traded in and out of Uganda!'*), it is apparent that human trafficking is a rising anathema in Uganda and the East African region.

Breakings and Aggravated Robbery

The report says that out of all criminal activities reported in the year under review, breakings-in accounted for 5.1 per cent. A total of 10,148 cases were registered by the police -- in comparison to 10,113 in the previous year. House breaking increased by 4.3 per cent while shop breaking soared by 12.2 per cent. Aggravated robbery is captured at 1,956 reported in 2021, compared to 1,844 in the previous year. This shows an increase of 0.6 per cent.

Terrorism

In 2021 a total of 21 cases of terrorism were captured by the police; compared to only two cases in the previous year. The police attributed the increase to heightened violence, including bombing of innocent people by the rebel Allied Democratic Forces that have a rear base in the DR Congo

Cyber Crimes:

Cases of cyber-crime registered an increase of 0.78 per cent. In the year 2021, a total of 258 cases were captured by the police; compared to 256 cases in the previous year. The report shows that this crime alone accounted for loss of a whopping Uganda Shillings 4,710,393,000 Uganda (more than US dollars 1.3 million).

Positives:

In spite of the above scenario, the annual crime report is also laced with lots of successes registered by the police in the year under review.

Narcotics:

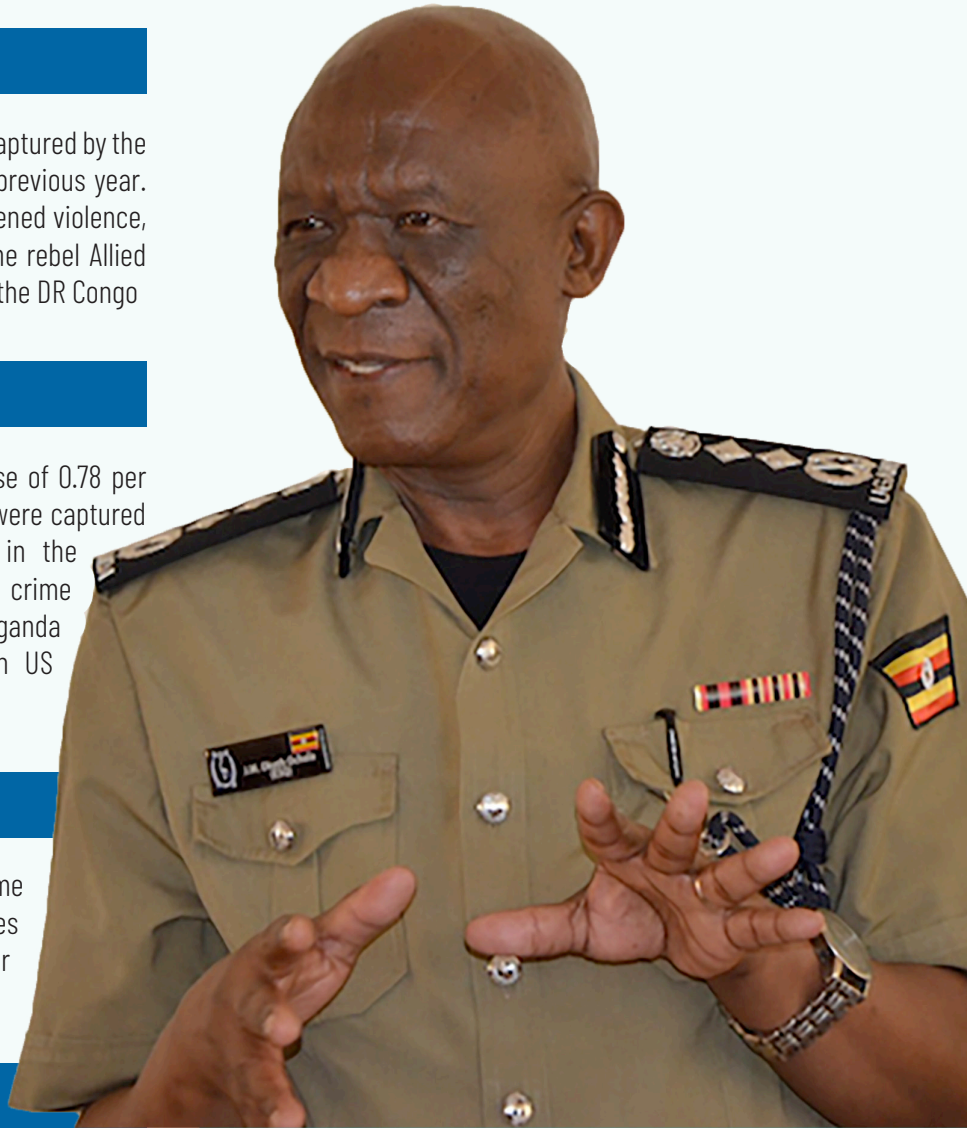
The report shows a decrease of 2.6 per cent. By the end of 2021, narcotics-related cases were 1,668 compared to 1,714 in the year 2020. A total of 23,887.83kgs of assorted narcotics were seized by the police at Entebbe International Airport. In the previous year, only 41.94kgs were seized. And in the year 2019, only 132.012kgs were recovered by police.

Domestic Violence

The report shows a 0.74 per cent decrease in instances of domestic violence. A total of 17,533 cases were reported in 2021 compared to 17,664 in the previous year.

Rape

There were lesser cases of rape in the year under review. A total of 1,486 were reported in comparison to 1,519 in



The Inspector General of Police, Martin Okoth Ochola

the previous year. This accounted for a decrease of 2.1 per cent. Nonetheless, the figures show that a total of 90 female juveniles and 1,396 adult females are reported to have been raped in 2021!

UNAFRI's view

UNAFRI is developing a programme of activities in conjunction with other stakeholders to address the crime problem in Africa.

The Institute will work with authorities in the Uganda Police Force and other agencies to implement tailored interventions to address challenges which feature prominently in the Uganda Police Annual Crime Report.

Human Trafficking: Over 1,000 Rescued in Uganda!

By our Media Consultant

Over the past one year, almost 1,300 people were victims of human trafficking in Uganda. According to the annual National Report on Countering Trafficking Persons for the year 2021, a total of 1,295 were prey to perpetrators of the heinous crime.

A breakdown shows that 790 persons were victims of transnational trafficking. Another 475 were victims of internal trafficking while 30 were for reasons yet to be ascertained.

The report, from Uganda's Ministry of Internal Affairs, was compiled by the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in collaboration with Stakeholder ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

It shows that among the victims, 713 were female adults while 285 were female juveniles. Further, 181 victims were male adults while 86 were male juveniles. "The number of victims increased in October, November and December as a result of reopening of air transport; and most of the victims of trafficking were transnational," says the report.

Uganda was the main source country for victims of trafficking as well as transit and destination country for victims of domestic and transnational trafficking for both juveniles and adults. The authors aver that irregular and unguided labour migration was the most contributing factor for trafficking of these Ugandans to foreign countries. However, foreign nationals were not spared either; some were trafficked into or through Uganda.

The report says that the majority of victims were recruited in the trafficking trap through deceptive means. "Some were aided with the use of fraudulent travel documents."

Statistics

- A total of 421 incidents were registered from January to December 2021, compared to 214 incidents registered for the same period in 2020, giving an increase of 96.7%.
- Incidents of internal trafficking were highest with 278, representing 66.03%.
- Transnational trafficking had 113 incidents representing 26.84%
- Thirty incidents of suspected trafficking (7.12%) were unknown.

Counter Measures

The entire picture is however not bleak. The report shows that stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking upped their game; to net the culprits and stem the vice. Reported figures show that out of the 1,295 cases reported victims, more than 500 were rescued. More than 300 of the victims were intercepted before reaching their destinations, while a total of 134 were rescued.

- RESCUED	576
- INTERCEPTED	305
- RECOVERED	134
- NOT RESCUED	87
- NOT RECOVERED	52
- MISSING	36
- DEAD	20
- Unknown	85
TOTAL	1295

The interventions were possible, courtesy of proactive measures by the government. There was marked improvement in the countering of trafficking in persons as a result of good strategic and operational actions taken by the various stakeholders, among others;

- Enhanced border management due to the deployment of security personnel; at border points by the Ugandan government and other neighbouring countries to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic;
- Interceptions of suspected victims of trafficking within Uganda and in the neighbouring country of Kenya before the victims faced abuse and exploitation;
- Prosecution led investigations enhanced convictions;

- Capacity building through training and logistical support for law enforcement and key stakeholders, which improved victim identification and support; effective investigations and prosecution of offenders.

Forms of Exploitation for victims of trafficking

Unregulated Labour externalisation remains the biggest form of exploitation for trafficking in persons for transnational trafficking. This is driven by the large population of unemployed youth and the increased demand for semi-skilled labour in countries such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman and Jordan among others. On the other hand, sex trafficking was the biggest form of exploitation for internal trafficking. This was driven by the effects of the prolonged covid-19 lockdown.

Forms of Exploitations for victims of Trafficking in Person

S/NO	Form of Exploitation	Internal Trafficking	Transnational Trafficking
Labour		94	105
Sexual		117	07
Ritual		05	00
Forced Child Marriage		47	00
Debt bondage		05	01
Illegal Activity		19	02
Organ Harvest		01	00
Servitude		00	01
Unknown		43	00
Total		331	116



Participants at one of UNAFRI's training workshops.

UNAFRI's Consultative Mission in Seychelles

June 2022



The United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution number 75/197 commends the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) for its efforts to promote, coordinate and carry out more activities within its core mandate, including regional technical cooperation related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa, despite the resource constraints under which it is operating;

Recalls the decision of the Governing Board of the Institute to adopt the strategic plan for the period 2017–2021 to address crime in an integrated manner by strengthening national capacities for crime prevention and criminal justice, and calls upon Member States, including those members of the Institute, all relevant entities of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to give the support necessary for its full implementation;

Encourages Member States to raise awareness of the work of the Institute and its relevance to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Reaffirms the need to further strengthen the capacity of the Institute to support national mechanisms for crime prevention and criminal justice in African countries;

Notes the efforts of the Institute to establish contacts with organizations in those countries that are promoting crime prevention programmes and its maintenance of close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

Encourages the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each programme country, with an emphasis on tailoring practitioner training and development efforts to address identified vulnerabilities,

and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with existing funds, as well as available capacity, by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions;

Now in implementation of the Resolution, the Institute has developed a programme of activities with derived attributes from the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address the crime problem in all the regions of Africa. In this regard, consultative missions have been initiated with various jurisdictions in Africa. The current mission is scheduled to start in the week 13–17 June 2022 with authorities in Seychelles for preparatory discussions ahead of a regional workshop for the SADC countries, scheduled for October 2022.

The programme is scheduled to address the following issues:-

1. To explore the areas in which the Institute can assist in the areas of crime prevention and treatment of offenders, especially concerning the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress 2020).
2. Secondly, to brief and interest Seychelles in our training activities and explore whether the same can be replicated in the country especially courses in **International Human Rights Law** and another on **Judicial Co-operation in the prosecution of terrorism and related offences, to be held in Kampala from the 11th to 15th July 2022**.
3. Thirdly to assess the performance of Seychelles on the progress made in the implementation of SDG -16, especially on decongestion of prisons, implementation of the Mandela Rules, efforts

to prevent Gender-Based Violence, violence against children, exploitation, and trafficking of children and women; efforts to ensure equal access to justice for all, especially people held in detention and not yet sentenced; the existence of independent national human rights institutions, their mandate, functions, and efforts to promote and protect human rights; efforts to fight corruption and bribery and the Rule of Law.

4. The issue of training is high on our agenda, and we intend to hold a training workshop in Seychelles subject to confirmation and agreement on cost-sharing proposals that we shall present to the relevant authorities.

The Legal and Training Consultant, Mr Andrew Munanura is representing the Institute in the discussions with the authorities in Seychelles.



Participants at UNAFRI's training workshop on International Human Rights Law and Pre-Trial Detention at the Secretariat.



Participants at UNAFRI's training workshop on International Human Rights Law and Pre-Trial Detention at the Secretariat.

A Glimpse into Organised Crime in East Africa

The Global Organised Crime Index gives a snapshot image of crime in various parts of the African continent. Here below is an abridged glimpse into crime in East African countries as captured by the Global CrIME Index.



KENYA:

By geographical location, Kenya is a significant hub for human smuggling in East Africa, and new smuggling hotspots have been emerging across the country in recent years. Kenya's role has shifted from that of a destination to primarily that of a transit country. Most smuggled people in Kenya come from the Horn of Africa. Kenyans seeking to reach the Middle East often employ the services of smugglers. Overall, Kenya's human smuggling market overlaps heavily with the country's human trafficking and forced labour markets, with Kenyan and Ugandan recruitment agencies reportedly collaborating on smuggling and trafficking operations.

Trade

Arms trafficking is a significant issue in Kenya, with high numbers of unlicensed and illicit firearms circulating in the country due to its proximity to conflict-ridden areas. Border porosity and the phenomenon of cattle theft are also believed to exacerbate the issue. Criminal gangs have reportedly turned to schoolchildren, young boys and women to aid the import of illicit firearms.

The Kenyan government has made concerted efforts to collect civilian arms, as a result of which the number of illicit arms in circulation in the country has likely decreased, but the COVID-19 pandemic along with increased terrorist activities contributed to a subsequent increase of the scope and scale of the market.

Environment

Despite a 1986 ban on logging indigenous tree species, illicit logging of indigenous trees continues to occur in Kenya. Ports such as Mombasa serve as transit hubs for illicit timber products trafficked across East Africa.

Additionally, sandalwood is illicitly harvested and often destined for markets in Uganda, Saudi Arabia and India. The charcoal trade has also fuelled illicit logging in Kenya, and there are claims that criminal proceeds contribute to the funding of al-Shabaab militants hiding in the forests. Not least of all, the Covid 19 pandemic pushed an increased number of unemployed people to target forest resources, exacerbating the issue even further.

Wildlife trafficking is widespread in Kenya. In particular, illicit ivory, rhino horn, African Grey parrot and venomous snake markets are extremely prevalent. Kenya is also a major transit country for wildlife trafficking products. Wildlife trafficking between Kenya and Asia is particularly predominant and Asian criminal syndicates have reportedly established bases in the country. High levels of violence are associated with the wildlife-trafficking market in Kenya. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, poaching for bush meat reportedly increased across Kenya.

In regard to non-renewable resource crimes, Kenya acts as both a destination and transit country for mineral smuggling. Most smuggled minerals originate in the DRC

and are trafficked through Kenya for 'legitimization' before being sold to foreign markets. Oil smuggling is also known to occur in Kenya.

Drugs

Kenya is a major waypoint for various illicit narcotics, including heroin from Afghanistan and the Arabian Gulf en route to Europe, the Americas and other parts of Africa. Cocaine is either imported using air routes from South America to neighbouring Ethiopia, or more commonly, transported by air from neighbouring African states, particularly those in western Africa. Nigerian syndicates and Italian mafia groups often control international shipments.

Seizure rates of cannabis in the country are ranked among the highest on the continent. Over the course of 2020, Kenya became a significant market for bhang coming from neighbouring Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. Kenya also has one of the highest cannabis seizure rates in Africa. Local enforcement mechanisms have however considerably tackled the problem.

Criminal Actors

A large number of violent, gangs operate in Kenya. Human trafficking, cybercrime, virtual kidnapping and the sale of counterfeit goods have been reported but the watchful efforts of Kenya's authorities have curtailed crime.

Some criminal networks, especially those involved in human trafficking, human smuggling and drug trafficking, have transnational links to counterparts abroad.

The Kenyan government has deported an estimated 3,000 foreign nationals accused of criminal activity. A large number of smugglers from neighbouring countries operate in Kenya. Asian nationals, primarily originating in China, are reported to be involved in drug and fauna trafficking in Kenya. Transnational actors are heavily involved in targeting children for human-trafficking operations.

Leadership and governance

The Kenyan government has made concerted efforts to combat organized crime. However, while oversight mechanisms exist, implementation remains limited. Nevertheless, Kenya has one of the best anti-organized crime and anti-corruption legislative frameworks in the region. This legislation requires the public to be involved in budget-making and for public tenders to be published before being awarded.

On the international level, Kenya has ratified several international treaties and conventions pertaining to organized crime. Kenya maintains good relations with African states and the EU, and also has a strategic security partnership with the US. Kenya cooperates well with neighbouring states and engages in information sharing and crime investigation, notably on cyber security and tax-related issues.

Kenya has also partnered with 14 of its neighbours to establish a counter-terrorism think-tank. On the domestic level, Kenya has one of the best constitutional frameworks against organized crime in the region.



TANZANIA

The most common forms of trafficking are labour and sexual exploitation, often orchestrated by business-people who traffic individuals from rural areas, forcing them to work in the informal commercial sector, on farms, in quarries and mines, as well as on fishing fleets in the high seas. Individuals close to the victims are largely complicit in domestic trafficking. However, mostly cartel-type gangs operating in border and port towns control transnational trafficking of persons.

Trade

Although Tanzania is a relatively stable country, it still suffers from small arms proliferation. Tanzania's long and

porous borders with neighbouring countries experiencing conflict and instability to a certain degree expose it to arms trafficking.

Environment

The criminal networks engaging in illegal logging are well organized, well-armed and in many cases are involved in other forms of organized criminal activity with links to other transnational organized crime groups in neighbouring countries, as well as in Asia. Fauna crimes are also pervasive in Tanzania, as the country is host to a large population of animals that are poached and trafficked. There are close ties between trafficking networks in Tanzania and Asian consumer markets and evidence suggests that there are fairly high levels of violence associated with the illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania. In regard to non-renewable resource crimes, gold and tanzanite are the two most trafficked minerals out of Tanzania. Furthermore, while there have been several recent arrests of high-ranking police and local government officials for their involvement in the illicit economy, there have been few, if any, convictions.

Drugs

Criminal networks have strong connections to organized criminal groups both in Asia and Europe.

Criminal Actors

The picture of national criminal networks in Tanzania is fairly opaque. However, there are a number of criminal networks operating in the country in an array of illicit economies. Local networks act as facilitators in the illegal ivory trade and in the illegal logging sector. Tanzanian organized crime figures are increasingly prevalent in a number of sectors, including poachers and illegal wildlife smugglers in Mozambique, and heroin trafficking networks in South Africa, as well as other drug networks operating in India.

The ability of these criminal actors to operate transnationally suggests a fairly high level of organization. There are a number of foreign actors that are also known to contribute significantly to the organized crime landscape in Tanzania, including criminal groups from West Africa and Southern Africa, as well as from Asia. Criminal actors from Eastern Asia are most heavily involved in environmental illicit economies. Furthermore, elements from transnational organized crime groups

have a presence on reported incidents of criminality in the country.

Leadership and governance

Under the current administration, organized crime has been placed high on the agenda, in large part due to the desire to pursue social economic development at unprecedented levels. At lower and mid-levels of government, there has been effective action.

The Tanzanian government has also pursued a harsh anti-corruption drive in recent years, evident in the number of high-level court cases and the dismissal of several public officials.

On the international level, Tanzania has ratified a number of international treaties and conventions pertaining to organized crime. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Kenya in 2015 on the issue of illegal logging, but it has only been partially implemented. Moreover, a trilateral agreement has been established with South Africa and Mozambique pertaining to collaboration on the issue of the transnational drug trade between the three countries.

On the domestic level, Tanzania has more pieces of legislation pertaining to organized crime than almost any other African nation, covering drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking, as well as wildlife and environmental crimes. In terms of enforcement, state actions and decisions have been effective, but they are likely to be seen as knee-jerk and unlikely to go beyond Tanzanian borders to deal with illicit activities in a suitable manner.

Criminal justice and security

The government crackdown on corrupt officials in recent years has been somewhat successful in reducing the pervasiveness of corrupt practices in the judicial system. At the same time, the court has an extremely broad definition of economic crime.

In regard to law enforcement, Tanzania's law enforcement bodies have taken strong action on organized criminal activity

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



Human trafficking in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is widespread and affects large segments of the Congolese population. Most trafficking occurs internally and takes the form of forced prostitution or child recruitment into armed groups. Despite being a source, transit and destination country for trafficking, detection remains difficult due to poor living standards.

Rampant conflict, violence and displacement in the DRC render human smuggling a crucial means of aiding vulnerable migrants in moving both through the country and abroad. However, human smuggling is not a common or lucrative trade, and the professional smugglers who do operate are often South African or Zimbabwean. The smuggling of Congolese migrants to Europe has been reported in recent years.

Trade

Armed conflict in the DRC and its neighbouring states, combined with a porous border, has exacerbated arms trafficking in the country. The expansion of both local and foreign rebel groups has increased demand for illicit arms and ammunition trafficking, particularly between the DRC and the Central African Republic. Weapon ownership is said to be high in the DRC, running into the hundreds of thousands.

Environment

The DRC is home to the largest tropical forest in Africa, but has suffered significant tree cover loss over the past decades. It is a country of origin for illicit high-value timber trafficked globally and generating significant income for criminal actors.

In 2014, almost 90% of logging activities were illegal in the country, and while much of the logging is carried out by large international companies, informal small-scale logging operations supply domestic markets. Certain species of great apes and monkeys are threatened by illegal bush meat hunting, while armed groups engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, often resulting in high levels of violence.

The DRC has an abundance of non-renewable resources, creating large criminal markets. Diamonds are also extracted illegally and trafficked abroad. The UN Security Council reported that fraudulent documents were used to export gold to the United Arab Emirates, the country's main

recipient of illicit gold. The DRC is also a source country for the so-called 'conflict materials' of tin, tungsten and tantalum.

The latter illegal trade allegedly exploits child labour and sustains armed groups within the country, driving levels of violence up.

Drugs

The DRC is also a transit country for South American cocaine, and authorities have intercepted large shipments making their way to the country. The DRC is a destination and source country for cannabis trafficked into neighbouring countries such as Uganda and Burundi.

Criminal Actors

Armed groups are especially prevalent in the DRC's eastern provinces, with more than 100 active in North and South Kivu alone. These groups have expanded due to ethnic polarisation, insecurity and widespread human rights abuses, and they are thought to engage in civilian attacks and various forms of organized crime, especially wildlife crimes.

There are numerous criminal networks involved in the non-renewable resources market, operating both locally and transnationally in the DRC.

Foreign criminal gangs also operate at large with other actors to facilitate the trafficking of drugs, arms and wildlife, coupled with fraudulent activities in the banking sector.

Rwanda



Rwanda's relative political and economic stability makes it a destination or transit point for many irregular migrants and refugees. There are however allegations of female, and child refugees being subjected to sex trafficking in Congolese refugee camps, and of children being drafted into militias fighting in Burundi and the DRC.

Most accounts describe Rwandan migrants travelling on their own rather than using the help of local smugglers. Nevertheless, reports also hint at various criminal networks supporting the migrant flows.

Trade

Due to the legacy of the civil war (1990-1994), regional instability and porous borders, a high number of unregulated small arms and light weapons are in circulation in Rwanda. While these weapons are allegedly used in local robberies and grenade attacks, violence rates are low.

Environment

While it does not occur on a major scale, wildlife trafficking, including that of ivory and rhino horn, remains a concern. Poaching is limited, but illicit products such as ivory, rhino horn, and other endangered species have been recorded as being transported through Rwanda in relatively high amounts. A high degree of deforestation can be observed in Rwanda, as people exploit bamboo or firewood for fuel. However, this does not appear to be linked to organized criminal activity. Wood and charcoal are reportedly trafficked from the DRC to Rwanda, albeit to a limited extent.

Drugs

Rwanda's role in global drug markets is minor. Cannabis is the most consumed and trafficked illegal drug in the country, and Rwanda is a transshipment point for regionally produced cannabis, as well as a minor destination market. The criminal market for heroin is limited in scale and scope. Driven primarily by wealthier young people in the cities, consumption rates are low.

However, as the country becomes a regional economic hub and the national airline expands, Rwanda's role in the

transnational drug trade could potentially increase, and it could become a growing overland transshipment point for heroin arriving in East Africa destined for markets and transshipment points elsewhere in southern and Central Africa.

The criminal market for cocaine is also believed to be limited in size, but there is evidence of trafficking and local use in Rwanda, with cocaine-related arrests taking place in Kigali.

Criminal Actors

Politically-motivated, armed non-state actors and militias involved in the conflict in the DRC continue to play primary roles in criminal markets and war economies of the Great Lakes region. This is largely due to the nature of the complex conflict in eastern DRC. Operating out of eastern DRC, armed groups continue to make incursions into Rwanda posing national security concerns.

Foreign criminal actors and networks exist in Rwanda and are involved in a variety of smuggling activities. The country's porous borders allow for various smugglers and militias from the DRC and Burundi to pass into Rwanda, facilitating the smuggling of different illicit goods such as weapons and drugs.

Leadership and governance

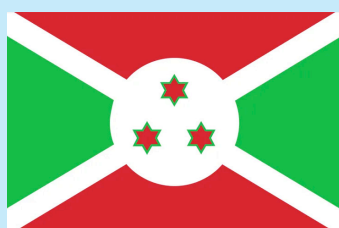
Rwanda is considered among the safest and most stable states on the continent. The government has prioritized the fight against crime, and crime prevention has become an increasingly significant part of the national strategy for

public safety and security. Rwanda has shown a relatively high level of commitment to international cooperation against organized crime.

Still, Rwanda generally lacks cooperation mechanisms with other countries on matters such as human trafficking.

Criminal justice and security

The government has initiated reform of its justice system, seeking to modernize its judiciary and improve processing times for legal cases. Rwanda has at least two law enforcement units within the national police force tasked with countering organized crime, specifically financial and economic, and narcotics crimes.



Burundi

Human trafficking is prevalent in Burundi as in other African countries and is exacerbated by poor living conditions. Human smuggling is rife, and victims are vulnerable to human trafficking, violence, abuse and exploitation. Kenya and South Africa are destination countries for Burundians seeking employment. However, displaced Burundians seek refuge in neighbouring countries, primarily Rwanda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda. While some are repatriated, tightening border control measures have rendered smuggling to both Tanzania and Rwanda increasingly difficult.

Trade

These are reports of arms trafficking along Burundi's border with the DRC is rife, despite an arms embargo between the two countries. Along with assault rifles and ammunition, small arms and light weapons are commonly trafficked across the border, including to armed groups in the DRC.

Environment

Flora crimes do not appear significant; however, Burundi is affected by the illicit African hardwood trade, which is a growing regional problem in the Congo basin. Timber trafficking occurs in the eastern DRC and across the region, however once it leaves the DRC, the trade is well regulated, and no evidence points to it being a consolidated criminal market in Burundi.

Burundi is also a transit country for wildlife trafficking, largely facilitated by corrupt officials, as is the case with gold smuggling. Illicit gold is mined locally, with a large

proportion smuggled to the United Arab Emirates, as well as being imported from the DRC.

In addition to gold, the prevalence of valuable minerals, such as copper, cobalt and platinum; along with Burundi's dire economic situation, are incentives for mineral smuggling. After gold, tin, tungsten and tantalum are the most profitable and most commonly smuggled minerals throughout the country, and the wider region.

Drugs

Burundi is a minor waypoint for drugs, including cocaine and heroin, largely due to inadequate border controls. Heroin is imported via the eastern border en-route to Europe by air, or elsewhere in Africa, via land routes. Most shipments are concealed as luggage or cargo, or as internal body concealments by 'mules'. While synthetic drug consumption is low, Burundi is a source country for cannabis, which is often trafficked to neighbouring Rwanda. It is also a transit country for cannabis produced by its neighbours, and a destination country for cannabis trafficked from the DRC.

External Auditors at UNAFRI



L-R: Augustine Gerald Kalumbi, Chief Auditor at the National Audit Office in Malawi and a member of External Auditors Board; Ms Louisa Forlack Nkendon, a Senior State Auditor at the Supreme Audit Institution of Cameroon; and John Sembuya pose for a photo. The duo are in Kampala, to audit UNAFRI books and activities on behalf of African Member States





UNAFRI's Natural Ambiance.







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