

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS LEADS TO BREAKTHROUGHS IN DISMANTLING ORGANISED WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING NETWORKS**

**Tuesday, 21 October 2025:** The South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force (SAMLIT) has published its third report on the financial flows associated with illegal wildlife trade (IWT), marking another significant milestone in the country's continued fight against environmental crime and transnational organised criminal networks. SAMLIT was established as a public-private partnership by the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) in December 2019.

The 2025 report, titled Financial Flows Associated with Illegal Wildlife Trade in South Africa: The 2025 Updated Perspective, builds on the foundational work of the Expert Working Group (EWG) and reflects the evolution of SAMLIT IWT efforts into a fully-fledged IWT Taskforce. It highlights the growing sophistication of wildlife traffickers, and the critical role financial intelligence plays in disrupting these networks.

"This report is a demonstration to the power of collaboration," said Shelley Brown, Chair of the SAMLIT IWT Taskforce and Segment Head of Financial Crime Risk Management at FNB / FirstRand Group. "We've moved beyond typologies to real-time tactical engagement, enabling law enforcement and financial institutions to jointly dismantle syndicates and seize illicit assets."

The conviction of W Kimpampa, is a significant milestone in addressing money launderers, who facilitate the money laundering in the illicit wildlife trafficking space. He was a co-accused in case investigated under the DPCI project Blood Orange and was convicted on charges relating to third-party money laundering and conspiracy to hunt rhinos. He facilitated the sale of rhino horns to Chinese nationals on behalf of accused one a general labourer, in Government. He was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, of which five years were suspended. His effective sentence is 12 years imprisonment. He facilitated the laundering of R12million. He retained a fee of R5million, which he utilised to build a property portfolio.

Dania Bruwer, Senior State Advocate of the National Prosecuting Service – Organised Crime Unit highlighted “the SAMLIT IWT Task force improved the coordination of financial investigations significantly, resulting in successful money laundering prosecutions, addressing those that facilitate money laundering and this high-risk area, demonstrating South Africa’s commitment to tackling IWT, as a serious predicate offence in line with FATF (Financial Action Task Force standards.”

Colonel Johan Jooste, National Section Commander, Serious Organised Crime: Wildlife Trafficking, in the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation added “We as the SAMLIT Integrated Task Force has come together as individuals in the beginning and has grown to become a significant integrated task force, progressed in our approaches, communicated, learned and shared innovative ideas in our efforts to address the financial aspects related to wildlife trafficking, harvesting uncommon results which is a fundamental ingredient of our current successes.”

SAMLIT remains a cornerstone in the fight against organised wildlife trafficking, leveraging financial intelligence to dismantle illicit networks.

“SAMLIT’s effectiveness stems from its ability to foster transparent and collaborative engagement among committed stakeholders who share a common goal: to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking through a coordinated approach that punches a hole big enough to destroy these syndicates,” said Dr Dion George, South African Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

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**Note to editors:**

**SAMLIT** (South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force) is a private-public partnership between the banking sector and government regulatory authorities, led by the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC). Started in December 2019, SAMLIT is aimed at enhancing collaboration and coordination in combating financial crime, money laundering and terrorist financing. Banking sector partners include domestic and international banks, and banking industry representatives SABRIC (South African Banking Risk Information Centre) and BASA (The Banking Association South Africa). Regulatory authorities in the partnership include the South African Reserve Bank’s Prudential Authority and its Financial Surveillance Department, as well as the FIC.

The partnership enhances the effective, efficient and timeous sharing of information with a view to improving analytical capabilities of regulatory authorities which in turn assists law enforcement in their investigations and application for asset forfeiture. Through its work SAMLIT also identifies specific types of behaviours and activities associated with different types of crimes. These typologies are intended to increase knowledge on and possibly pre-empt some types of criminal behaviour associated with the banking sector. For any queries about SAMLIT, please go to [SAMLIT@fic.gov.za](mailto:SAMLIT@fic.gov.za)