



Suspected mismanagement of funds in Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania

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Reference is made to the latest report dated 15 July 2022 regarding suspected mismanagement of funds in Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA), jointly with Finland and USAID, supported WCST. Denmark's grant was DKK 5 million for the period 2010-2012, of which DKK 3,524,564 was disbursed. This amount includes DKK 395,442, which is Denmark's share (74.5%) of the amount not properly accounted for, which is DKK 534,381.

In 2018, WCST refunded an unutilised bank balance and part of the funds, which a special audit initiated by Finland and Denmark identified as not properly accounted for. DKK 8.804 was returned to the MFA. Over the years, regular meetings have been held with WCST. However, funding to the organisation has been limited, the offices are vacated, and there is no functional management. WCST has therefore been unable to raise funds to refund the outstanding balance.

A legal opinion was obtained to establish how the case could be solved through legal proceedings. The legal opinion informed that, in order to bring the matter to court, it should be established which persons could be held responsible for the mismanagement, as it is not possible to raise a case against WCST as an institution. The legal opinion found it to be unclear, which kind of responsibility WCST had in the project, as the management structure and the responsibilities of the various overseeing bodies were unclear. The legal opinion concluded that there is not sufficient proof available to initiate neither a criminal nor a civil case against WCST.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thus regards the case as closed with a loss of approximately DKK 386,638.