REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
Enhancing Accountability

REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2025

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2025

PREAMBLE

I draw your attention to the contents of my report which is in three parts:

A. Report on Financial Statements that considers whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, accounting standards and the relevant laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the financial statements.

B. Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources which considers compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, gazette notices, circulars, guidelines and manuals and whether public resources are applied in a prudent, efficient, economic, transparent and accountable manner to ensure the Government achieves value for money and that such funds are applied for the intended purpose.

C. Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance which considers how the entity has instituted checks and balances to guide internal operations. This responds to the effectiveness of the governance structure, risk management environment and internal controls, developed and implemented by those charged with governance for orderly, efficient and effective operations of the entity.

An Unmodified Opinion is issued when the Auditor-General concludes that, the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The Report on Financial Statements should be read together with the Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources, and the Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance.

The three parts of the report are aimed at addressing the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Auditor-General as provided by Article 229 of the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act,2012 and the Public Audit Act,2015.The three parts of the report when read together constitute the report of the Auditor-General.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wildlife Research and Training Institute set out on pages 1 to 44, which comprise of the statement of financial position as at 30 June, 2025, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information in accordance with the provisions of Article 229 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 35 of the Public Audit Act, 2015. I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wildlife Research and Training Institute as at 30 June, 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and comply with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, No.47 of 2018 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the Wildlife Research and Training Institute Management in accordance with ISSAI 130 on the Code of Ethics. I have fulfilled other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the ISSAI and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in Kenya. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

Budgetary Control and Performance

The statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts reflects final receipts budget and actual on comparable basis of Kshs.897,974,275 and Kshs.977,297,944 respectively, resulting to an overcollection of Kshs.79,323,669 or 9% of the budget. Similarly, the Institute spent an amount of Kshs.1,089,053,005 against expenditure budget of Kshs.1,096,922,722 resulting to an under expenditure of Kshs.7,869,767 or 1% of the budget.

The Institute fairly achieved its budget targets.

My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, are of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. There were no key audit matters to report in the year under review.

Other Matter

Unresolved Prior Year Matters

In the prior years' audit report, one issue was raised under Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in Use of Public Resources and several issues under Report on the Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance.

Review of the status during audit of the Institute in 2024/2025 revealed that the following matters remained unresolved.

	Financial Year	Audit Issue
1	2023/2024	Long Outstanding Conference Debtors
2	2023/2024	Non-Transfer of Assets
3	2023/2024	Understaffing in the Institute

Other Information

The Management is responsible for the Other Information set out on page i to xlii which comprise of Key Institute Information and Management, The Board of the Institute, Key Management Team, Chairman's Statement, Report of the Chief Executive Officer, Statement of Performance Against Predetermined Objectives, Corporate Governance Statement, Management Discussion and Analysis, Environmental and Sustainability Reporting, Report of the Directors and Statement of Directors Responsibilities. The Other Information does not include the financial statements and my audit report thereon.

In connection with my audit on the Institute's financial statements, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and in doing so, consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information and I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the Other Information and accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Conclusion

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the effect of the matters described in the Basis for Conclusion on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources section of my report, I confirm that nothing else has come to my attention to cause me to believe that public resources have not been applied lawfully and in an effective.

Basis for Conclusion

1. Gender Imbalance in Staff Distribution

Review of the staff distribution by job groups revealed a significant gender imbalance, with male employees dominating in three job groups as tabulated below.

Rank	Female	Male	Total	Male %	Female %
4	7	19	26	73	27
9	3	27	30	90	10
10	5	14	19	74	26
	15	**60**	**75**		

In the circumstances, Management was in breach of Article 27(8) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that requires that not more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender.

2. Failure to Maintain an Electronic Asset Register

Review of the Institute processes revealed that it was yet to procure and implement an electronic system for asset management contrary to Section 10.11(1), (2), (7), and (9) of the Institute's Finance policy and procedure manual (2024).

In the circumstances, Management was in breach of the Institute's finance policy and procedure manual (2024).

3. Non-Compliance with Public Procurement Capacity Building Levy

Review of contracts issued by the Institute after 01 September, 2024 revealed that Management did not comply with the requirements of The National Treasury Legal Notice No. 206 of 2023 (The Public Procurement Capacity Building Levy Order, 2023) that directed all procurement entities effective from 01 September, 2024 to remit at the rate of 0.03% of the value of signed contracts exclusive of applicable taxes to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) through the e-Citizen platform. Contracts amounting to Kshs.190,197,832 were awarded during the year under review without deducting the mandatory levy of Kshs.57,059 (0.03%). Further, monthly returns on levy deductions and remittances were not filed on the Public Procurement Information Portal (tenders.go.ke).

In the circumstances, Management was in breach of the Legal Notice No. 206 of 2023.

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 3000 and ISSAI 4000. The standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements comply in all material respects, with the authorities that govern them. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my conclusion.

REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS, RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Conclusion

As required by Section 7(1)(a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015 and based on the audit procedures performed, except for the effect of the matters described in the Basis for Conclusion on the Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance section of my report, I confirm that nothing else has come to my attention to cause me to believe that internal controls, risk management and governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

1. Long Outstanding Receivables from Exchange Transactions

The statement of financial position reflects a balance of Kshs.82,102,561 in respect of current portion of receivables from exchange transactions as disclosed in Note 20 to the financial statements. Included in this balance is Kshs.6,486,697 that remained outstanding for more than three (3) years without any meaningful recovery efforts.

Further, Management has not put in place a debt collection policy.

In the circumstances, effectiveness in recovery of the Institute's debts could not be confirmed.

2. Long Outstanding Trade and Other Payables

The statement of financial position, as disclosed in Note 24 to the financial statements, reflects trade and other payables balance of Kshs.42,063,065. Included in this balance are trade and other payables amounting to Kshs.1,921,839 that remained outstanding for more than one (1) year.

In the circumstances, effectiveness of management of trade and other payables could not be confirmed.

3. Non-Transfer of Assets

The statement of financial position reflects property, plant and equipment balance of Kshs.1,144,910,755 as disclosed in Note 22 to the financial statements. However, review of the property, plant and equipment documents revealed that nine (9) parcels of land have not been transferred by Kenya Wildlife Service as agreed vide the joint KWS/WRTI Assets Transfer Committee. The nine (9) land parcels are still registered under the Kenya Wildlife Service. The Institute is therefore unable to fully utilize the assets.

In the circumstances, Management does not have fully control of the fixed assets as required.

4. Risks Facing the institute

Audit of the Institutes procedures and processes revealed the following risks as outlined in the report of management discussion and analysis.

i. Overlapping functions with Kenya Wildlife Service.

ii. Lack of Wildlife Research Regulations.

iii. Zoonotic diseases transmission leading to release of harmful pathogenic organisms.

iv. Inadequate ICT infrastructure and systems downtime which can lead to loss of information and data.

v. Ageing infrastructure that is not copping with current world trends.

In the circumstances, the Institute core mandate of undertaking wildlife research and training according to Section 51 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) 2013 was being hampered.

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 2315 and ISSAI 2330. The standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether effective processes and systems of internal controls, risk management and overall governance were operating effectively in all material respects. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my conclusion.

Responsibilities of the Management and Board of Directors

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and for maintaining effective internal controls as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and governance.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Institute's, ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management is aware of the intention to terminate the Institute or to cease its operations.

Management is also responsible for the submission of the financial statements to the Auditor-General in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Audit Act, 2015.

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, Management is also responsible for ensuring that the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements comply with the authorities which govern them and that public resources are applied in an effective way.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Institute's, financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of how Management monitors compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements, ensuring that effective processes and systems are in place to address key roles and responsibilities in relation to governance and risk management, and ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment.

Auditor-General's Responsibilities for the Audit

My responsibility is to conduct an audit of the financial statements in accordance with Article 229(4) of the Constitution, Section 35 of the Public Audit Act, 2015 and the

International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). The standards require that, in conducting the audit, I obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion in accordance with Section 48 of the Public Audit Act, 2015. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

In conducting the audit, Article 229(6) of the Constitution also requires that I express a conclusion on whether or not in all material respects, the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the authorities that govern them and that public resources are applied in an effective way. In addition, I consider the entity's control environment in order to give an assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and governance processes and systems in accordance with the provisions of Section 7(1)(a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015.

Further, I am required to submit the audit report in accordance with Article 229(7) of the Constitution.

Detailed description of my responsibilities for the audit is located at the Office of the Auditor-General's website at: https://www.oagkenya.go.ke/auditor-generals-responsibilities-for-audit/. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

FCPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

15 December, 2025