



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

## U.S. Agency for International Development

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 19, 2024

**TO:** USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mission Director, John Dunlop

**FROM:** USAID OIG Africa Regional Office, Audit Director, Ryan Werner /s/

**SUBJECT:** Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by Virunga Foundation in Democratic Republic of the Congo Under Cooperative Agreement 72066019CA00001, January 1 to December 31, 2023 (Report No. 4-660-25-042-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on USAID resources managed by Virunga Foundation under the Virunga Development activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Virunga Foundation contracted with the independent audit firm PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), Nairobi, Kenya to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. However, it did not have an external peer review or a continuing professional education program that fully satisfy the standards' requirements. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Virunga Foundation's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate Virunga Foundation's internal controls; (3) determine whether Virunga Foundation complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) review the indirect cost rate; and (5) review the implementation status of the prior period recommendations.

To answer the audit objectives, PwC (1) audited the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards including the budgeted amounts by category and major items and the revenues received from USAID for the period covered by the audit and the costs reported by Virunga Foundation as

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<sup>1</sup> We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

incurred from January 1 to December 31, 2023; (2) evaluated the control environment, the adequacy of the accounting systems, and control procedures that pertain to Virunga Foundation's ability to report financial data consistent with the assertions embodied in each account of the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (3) identified the award terms and pertinent laws and regulations and determined which of those, if not observed, could have a direct and material effect on the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; (4) determined that the review of the indirect cost rate was not applicable; and (5) reviewed the implementation status of the prior period recommendations. Virunga Foundation reported expenditures of \$3,359,603 in USAID funds during the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited. The audit firm identified \$1,024 in total ineligible questioned costs; two material weaknesses in internal control; and two instances of material noncompliance. Since the questioned costs did not meet the OIG's established threshold of \$25,000 for making a recommendation, we are not making a recommendation. Nevertheless, we suggest that the USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo determine the allowability of the \$1,024 in questioned costs and recover any amount determined to be unallowable. In addition, although we are not making a recommendation for the significant deficiency noted in the report, we suggest that the USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo determine if the recipient addressed the issue noted.

During our desk review, we noted an area for improvement which the audit firm should address in future audit reports. We presented the area in a memo to the controller, dated December 19, 2024.

To address the issues identified in the report, we recommend that the USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo:

**Recommendation 1.** Verify that Virunga Foundation corrects the two material weaknesses in internal control detailed on pages 21, 23 through 25 of the audit report.

**Recommendation 2.** Verify that Virunga Foundation corrects the two instances of material noncompliance detailed on pages 29 and 30 of the audit report.

We ask that you provide written notification of actions planned or taken to reach management decision.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential"). In addition, USAID OIG has determined that this

transmittal memo and the enclosed report are not subject to notification and reporting requirements under Section 5274 of the National Defense Authorization Act.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 5274. Please direct related inquiries to [oignotice\\_ndaa5274@usaid.gov](mailto:oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov).