

Park Lawyer – ANI Okomu Project

Okomu National Park is one of Nigeria's most important protected areas, home to rare wildlife, rich forest ecosystems, and globally significant biodiversity. The park is legally protected under the National Park Service Act, which mandates the conservation and protection of wildlife and natural habitats within Nigeria's national parks.

Despite this protection, the park continues to face pressure from illegal activities such as poaching, illegal logging, and encroachment of farms and human settlements. Park Rangers carry out regular patrols and often arrest offenders involved in these activities. However, ensuring that these arrests result in successful prosecution remains a challenge.

To strengthen law enforcement and improve the deterrence of wildlife crimes, Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation, working with the National Park Service intends to engage a qualified Legal Practitioner to support the prosecution of offenders arrested during ranger patrols. We are seeking a lawyer that will work closely with the park management, rangers, law enforcement agencies, and the courts to ensure that wildlife and park-related offences are properly prosecuted.

Role Summary

The Deputy Project Manager (DPM) will be responsible for leading law enforcement and support the Project manager in overseeing operational planning, infrastructure development and maintenance, fleet management, logistics, procurement, and other operational programmes. The role ensures that operational systems, resources, and personnel effectively support the delivery of the Park's conservation objectives.

The Park Lawyer will be responsible for strengthening the legal enforcement of wildlife protection in Okomu National Park by ensuring that offenders arrested by park rangers are effectively prosecuted in accordance with Nigerian law. He/she will also:

- Provide professional legal representation in court for wildlife and park-related offences.
- Support proper documentation and preparation of cases before court proceedings.
- Improve coordination between park authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary.
- Increase the likelihood of successful prosecution and conviction of offenders.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Legal Representation

- Represent cases arising from ranger arrests in the Magistrate or High Courts.
- Handle cases involving poaching, illegal hunting, possession of wildlife products, illegal logging, encroachment, and other related offences.
- Prepare and file necessary legal documents required for prosecution.



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Case Preparation, Legal Advice and Court Prosecution support

- Review ranger incident reports and arrest documentation.
- Guide rangers on evidence collection and witness documentation.
- Support preparation of case files before court proceedings.
- Prosecute cases diligently and follow them through until conclusion.
- Advocate penalties in accordance with applicable laws.
- Provide updates to park management on the progress of cases.

Capacity Building

- Provide periodic guidance or training for rangers on legal procedures related to arrests and evidence handling.
- Support rangers in preparing for court appearances when required.

Reporting and Coordination

The Park Lawyer will work closely with ANI Project manager, the Conservator of Parks ONP and relevant ANI staff. He/she will also coordinate with park rangers, the Nigerian Police, and court authorities, where necessary, to ensure smooth handling of cases.

Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) and Barrister-at-Law (BL)
- Membership of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
- At least five (5) years post-call experience in legal practice
- Experience in criminal litigation or environmental law will be an advantage
- Strong legal drafting, advocacy, and communication skills

TERMS: This is a two-year posting with options for renewals based on performance.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please send your CV along with a cover letter as one pdf file to recruitment@ani-nigeria.org and copy pa@ani-nigeria.org. The subject of the email should be the position you are applying for. Application deadline is 8th October 2026.