Team Matrix- Elite Hacker

Case Study: Digital Photo Forensics – Verifying Viral Animal Images

(a) Picture A

(b) Picture B

Two pictures (picA and picB) were widely shared on Facebook and Instagram with the claim that they show a newly discovered **four-eyed animal in South Sudan**. These images quickly went viral, with thousands of users reposting them without verification.

As a **Digital Forensic Investigator**, you are tasked to analyze these photographs and verify their authenticity.

Picture: 📷 Team Matrix Assignment

Questions:

1. **Claim Verification:**

   ○ What was the viral claim associated with these two images on social media?

   ○ Why is it necessary to perform digital forensic analysis before accepting such claims as true?

2. **Image Metadata & Technical Analysis:**

   ○ Which key metadata elements (file type, dimensions, color channels, editing software) were found in Image A and Image B?

   ○ What do the Error Level Analysis (ELA) and hidden pixel padding results suggest about the images?

3. **Authenticity Check:**

   ○ Based on forensic findings, do these images represent a real animal or something else?

   ○ How did the forensic report determine that the photos were edited and linked to an artwork?

4. **Cultural & Artistic Context:**

   ○ What is the actual origin of these images according to reverse-image search?

   ○ Who is the artist behind these sculptures and what mythical creature do they represent?

5. **Final Forensic Conclusion:**

   ○ What was the conclusion of the forensic investigation regarding the existence of a "four-eyed animal" in South Sudan?

   ○ Why is it important to distinguish between digital artwork and biological reality in such viral cases?