



Dear friends,

The images from Ukraine of smoking and damaged fuel stores, burned out forests and ships sunk in the seas reinforce the vulnerability of nature in the face of governance challenges and conflict. War brings enormous destruction, [not only to people, but to the environment](#). As I've moved from my former work as an anti-corruption campaigner with Transparency International to my new role with TRAFFIC, I've come to appreciate even more how opposing corruption and kleptocracy is vital to supporting conservation. It unites the goals of democracy activists and environmental civil society organizations in ways we may not always anticipate. Both human and nature's interests are best protected when the values of transparency, rule of law and freedom of expression are firmly in place.

Highlighting the role of corruption and approaches that can be taken to address it through conservation work is at the core of the TNRC project. I'm glad to share a set of new resources with you that have been designed to help advance understanding of corruption risks, anti-corruption, and (I hope) inspire you to apply them in your work:

- While effective law enforcement is essential for natural resource management and conservation, few systems are immune to corruption. Based on an assessment of three countries in Africa and Latin America, [this new Practice Note](#) by researchers from the Basel Institute on Governance categorizes corruption risks and offers practical steps for conservationists who cooperate with enforcement authorities to address wildlife crimes.
- Free Trade Zones and Special Economic Zones are commonly used to support economic development, but they have a dark side as well – less regulation and control might invite unscrupulous actors to use them as hubs of illegal trade in wildlife, forest, and marine products. A [new analysis](#) commissioned by WWF outlines the dangers and offers recommendations for civil society to counteract them.
- Understanding context and power dynamics can help conservation practitioners to avoid using inadequate or incomplete anti-corruption solutions. In a [recent webinar in TNRC's Learning Series](#), experts from the Basel

Institute, WWF, and USAID shared experiences and lessons learned from carrying out political economy analysis to make corruption risk assessments more robust and, most of all, effective.

- I encourage you to take the time to visit the other TNRC blog posts and latest podcasts from the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, below.

As we work together to build a shared future for all life, we were reminded on Sunday, the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#), that biodiversity is at the core of addressing development challenges. It is my profound hope that corruption and its facilitators—not wildlife—will be placed on the endangered species list in the future.

Regards,



Gabriel Sipos
Anti-Corruption Coordinator, TRAFFIC
Targeting Natural Resource Corruption



Where are the weakest links in the illegal wildlife trade enforcement chain? Lessons from corruption risk assessments with agencies in three countries | **TNRC Practice Note**

Manuel Medina, Juhani Grossman, Taradhinta Suryandari, and Monica Guy, *Basel Institute on Governance*

This note has a dual focus. First, it summarizes experiences and lessons from conducting CRAs with authorities responsible for investigations and prosecutions of IWT cases in three countries in Africa and Latin America. It seeks to demonstrate the value of adopting a collaborative approach to CRAs, illustrates potential avenues for pursuing such an approach when the right factors are in place, and demonstrates how mapping the criminal justice process provides a solid starting point to identify critical vulnerabilities. Second, this note highlights some common risks that emerged from the CRAs in the three countries and that may negatively affect the progress of IWT cases in other countries.



Open secrets: Corruption in Free Trade Zones and Special Economic Zones as an enabler of illegal wildlife trade | TNRC Topic Brief

Natalia Muñoz Cassolis, *Independent Consultant*

This paper presents three case studies that portray how FTZs/SEZs' characteristics contribute both to IWT and corruption, while also demonstrating that wildlife trafficking is merely an expression of the multiple illicit economies that can take place in FTZs/SEZs in the absence of adequate controls. These cases also demonstrate that the corrupt practices within these areas do not necessarily differ from other forms of corruption happening elsewhere in the country, region, or trade chain. Rather, what makes FTZs/SEZs particularly interesting for illicit trade is the additional layer of opaqueness and complexity that they pose for local authorities.



Anti-corruption Programming in Conservation and Natural Resource Management: Principles for Getting Started | TNRC Guide

This short reference guide is intended to assist conservation practitioners who are considering undertaking an anti-corruption project or adding an anti-corruption component to their work. It outlines eight principles based on learning from supporting pilot projects with WWF practitioners in widely varying contexts using different approaches. A key message is that anti-corruption projects tend to be most successful when they respond to specific corruption problems from a systemic perspective, in a manner that is appropriate to a given context. The guide is now available in French and Spanish.

Event Recordings, Podcasts & Blog Posts



Using political economy analysis to support corruption risk assessments that strengthen law enforcement against wildlife crime | [Event Recording & Blog Post](#)



Successful conservation is built on trust | [Podcast](#)



Corruption in Indonesia's forest sector: No victimless crime | [Podcast](#)



TNRC project-based learning: Supporting the implementers of TNRC's pilots and Associate Awards | [Blog Post](#)



TNRC project-based learning: Conservation practitioner perspectives on “corruption” and “analysis” | [Blog Post](#)



TNRC project-based learning: Six things donors should know about anti-corruption in conservation projects | [Blog Post](#)

Share Good Practice

Supporting [#lawenforcement](#) agencies to identify, evaluate, prioritize, and mitigate [#corruption](#) risks can help improve outcomes for [#wildlife](#). Learn from a 3-country [#corruptionriskassessment](#): <https://wwf.to/3yPC3ne>

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Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

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