Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Welcome! We will begin shortly.

This is a Zoom webinar. All participant videos are off and lines are muted.

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TNRC Virtual Panel

The impacts of infrastructure sector corruption on conservation: Implications for programming

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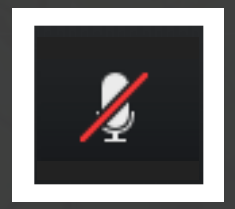
Get Engaged

Please introduce yourself and pose questions in the chat

The chat box is visible to all audience members and panelists.
Audience questions will be raised in moderated discussion as time allows.



All audience lines are muted

Given high attendance in this virtual panel, all audience videos are off and lines have been muted.

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Image credit: WWF Archives, Inter-Oceanic highway, Peru

Image credit: NASA's Earth Observatory – https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/world-of-change/Deforestation

The Impacts of Infrastructure Sector Corruption on Conservation

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What is infrastructure?

The integrated set of social, physical, and ecological components that provide services to meet human needs.

Examples include:

- Transportation networks,
- Dams,
- Energy networks,
- Communication and data systems, and
- Ports.

Image credit: Ceará Government, Castanhão Dam

Image credit: D. Nelson, Transamazon Highway, Brazil

Infrastructure Impacts on Conservation

Infrastructure development has direct and indirect impacts on conservation efforts.

Direct Impact Examples	Indirect Impacts Examples
Land clearing	Increase human settlement
Habitat fragmentation	Increase legal and illegal extractions

Image credit: D. Nelson, justifying dam site selection - Angola

What is corruption?

The abuse of entrusted power for private gain.

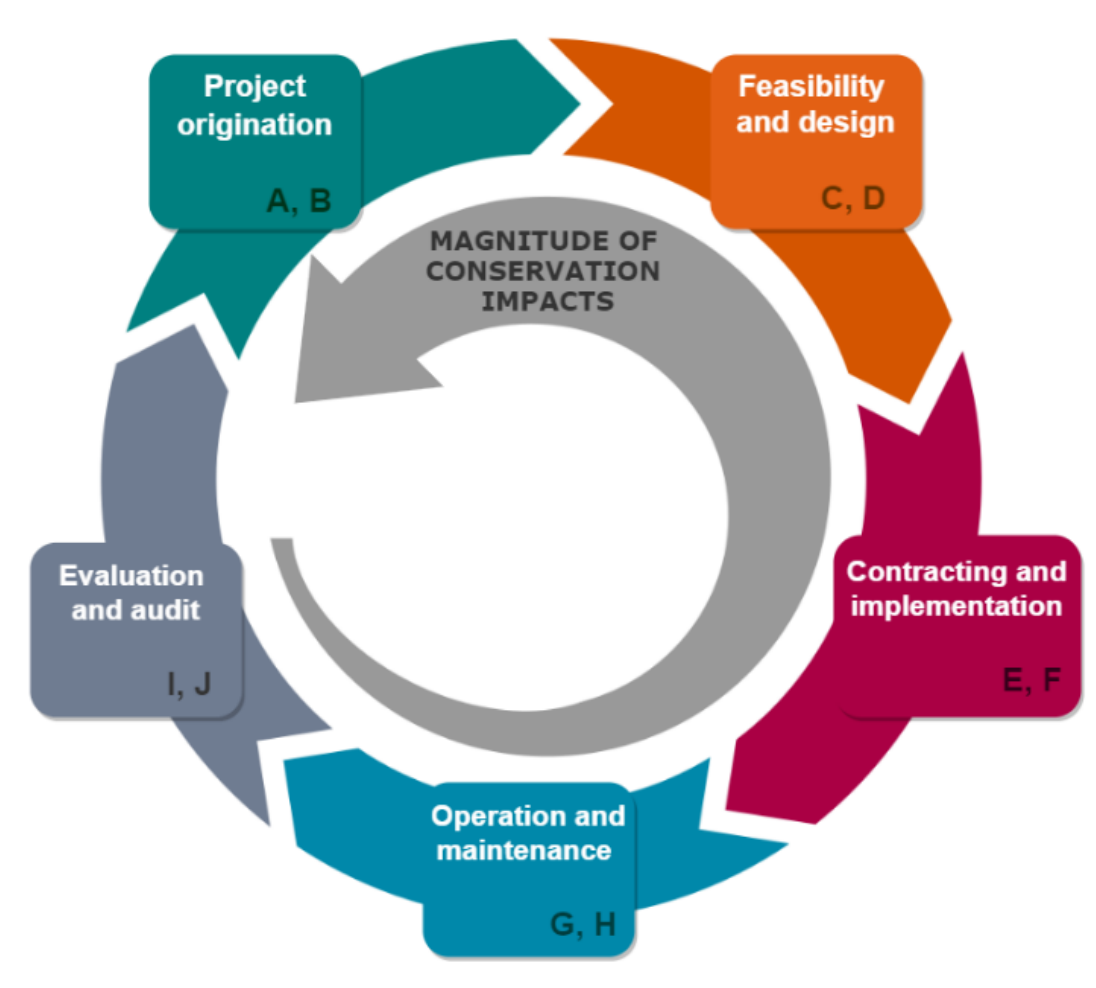
Grand corruption is the abuse of high-level power that benefits the few at the expense of the many (Transparency International).

Petty corruption involves lesser economic value and usually relates more to public services and administrative processes that may be encountered in daily life.

Infrastructure, Corruption, and Conservation

Examples of infrastructure corruption	Potential conservation consequences
» Political influence promoting an airport with low traffic demand in a high biodiversity region for the political gain of decision-makers and their agricultural industry supporters.	» Direct consequences include the unnecessary loss of natural habitat and disturbance to wildlife through increased noise and air pollution. Indirect consequences include deforestation to expand the agricultural frontier and the cutting of new roads for airport access.
» Bribing consultants for a favorable environmental impact assessment (EIA) of road feasibility in a biodiversity conservation priority area.	» Immediate impacts include deforestation, ecosystem fragmentation, and disturbance of animal migration. Long-term consequences include the loss of connectivity of natural ecosystems, mortality from road collision, and increase of land clearing.
» Collusion between officials and project implementers to circumvent environmental protections during dam construction and failing to construct a needed fish passage.	» Irreversible consequences may include the loss of fish and other aquatic species, and further impacts on the trophic chain.
» Contracting a relative to supply needed construction materials, resulting in illegally sourcing sand from protected areas.	» Immediate and long-term impacts include the destruction of ecosystem integrity of remote natural habitats (e.g., corals, seaweeds, and seagrass meadows) through erosion and the physical disturbance of benthic habitats, ecological communities, and food webs.
» Collusion between a port company and consultants to misrepresent a management plan for bilge water and other hazardous materials from the operation and washing of vessels at dock.	» A direct impact is pollution of the water body in the form of increased sedimentation and toxic materials released from bilge discharge. There is also the possibility of the increased spread of invasive exotic species, threatening marine organisms, food webs, and fish stocks.

Infrastructure Lifecycle



Connection to Corruption

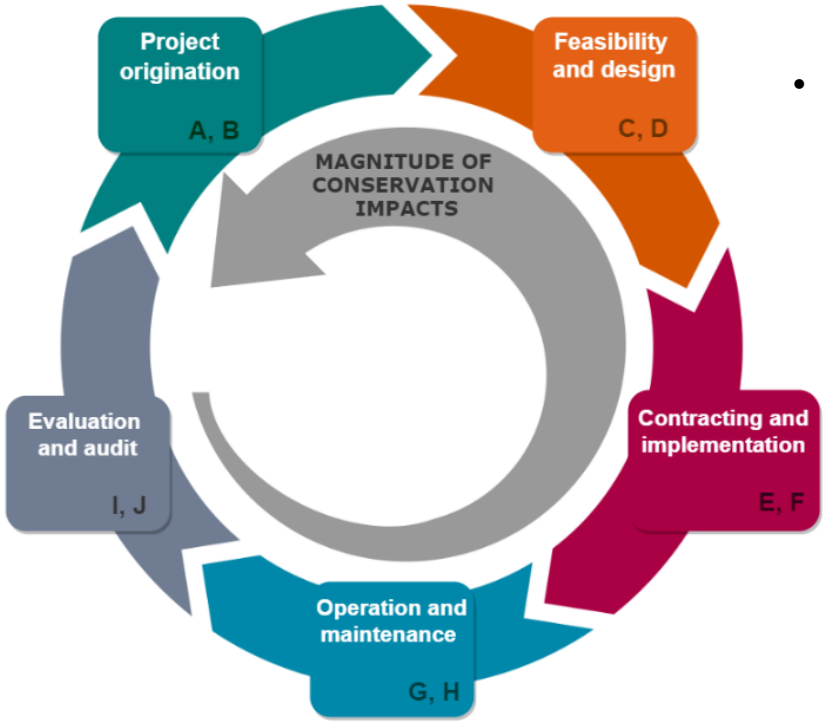
Corrupt practices undermine conservation objectives by:

Producing projects that are neither needed or desired.

Avoiding regulations and processes intended to limit environmental impacts of projects.

Decreasing the efficacy of projects, thus requiring addition development to meet human needs.

Infrastructure Lifecycle



- **Project Origination** – formal and informal methods by which an infrastructure idea moves into a formal review procedure.
- **Feasibility & Design** – activities related to project assessment, design, and budgeting.
- **Contracting & Implementation** – permitting, bidding, and other bureaucratic processes that move a project from design through construction.
- **Operations & Maintenance** – project use, management and preservation.
- **Project Origination** – formal and informal methods by which an infrastructure idea moves into a formal review procedure.
- **Evaluation & Audit** - systematic review of the project development process from origination through operation.

	Examples of infrastructure corruption	Potential conservation consequences
Project origination A, B	» Political influence promoting an airport with low traffic demand in a high biodiversity region for the political gain of decision-makers and their agricultural industry supporters.	» Direct consequences include the unnecessary loss of natural habitat and disturbance to wildlife through increased noise and air pollution. Indirect consequences include deforestation to expand the agricultural frontier and the cutting of new roads for airport access.
Feasibility and design C, D	» Bribing consultants for a favorable environmental impact assessment (EIA) of road feasibility in a biodiversity conservation priority area.	» Immediate impacts include deforestation, ecosystem fragmentation, and disturbance of animal migration. Long-term consequences include the loss of connectivity of natural ecosystems, mortality from road collision, and increase of land clearing.
Contracting and implementation E, F	» Collusion between officials and project implementers to circumvent environmental protections during dam construction and failing to construct a needed fish passage.	» Irreversible consequences may include the loss of fish and other aquatic species, and further impacts on the trophic chain.
Operation and maintenance G, H	» Contracting a relative to supply needed construction materials, resulting in illegally sourcing sand from protected areas.	» Immediate and long-term impacts include the destruction of ecosystem integrity of remote natural habitats (e.g., corals, seaweeds, and seagrass meadows) through erosion and the physical disturbance of benthic habitats, ecological communities, and food webs.
Evaluation and audit I, J	» Collusion between a port company and consultants to misrepresent a management plan for bilge water and other hazardous materials from the operation and washing of vessels at dock.	» A direct impact is pollution of the water body in the form of increased sedimentation and toxic materials released from bilge discharge. There is also the possibility of the increased spread of invasive exotic species, threatening marine organisms, food webs, and fish stocks.

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Goals of anti-corruption measures

Image credit: WWF Archives, Inter-Oceanic highway, Peru

The right project is selected

Transparency and fairness in selection and execution

Project is done as approved and contracted

Desired services are provided

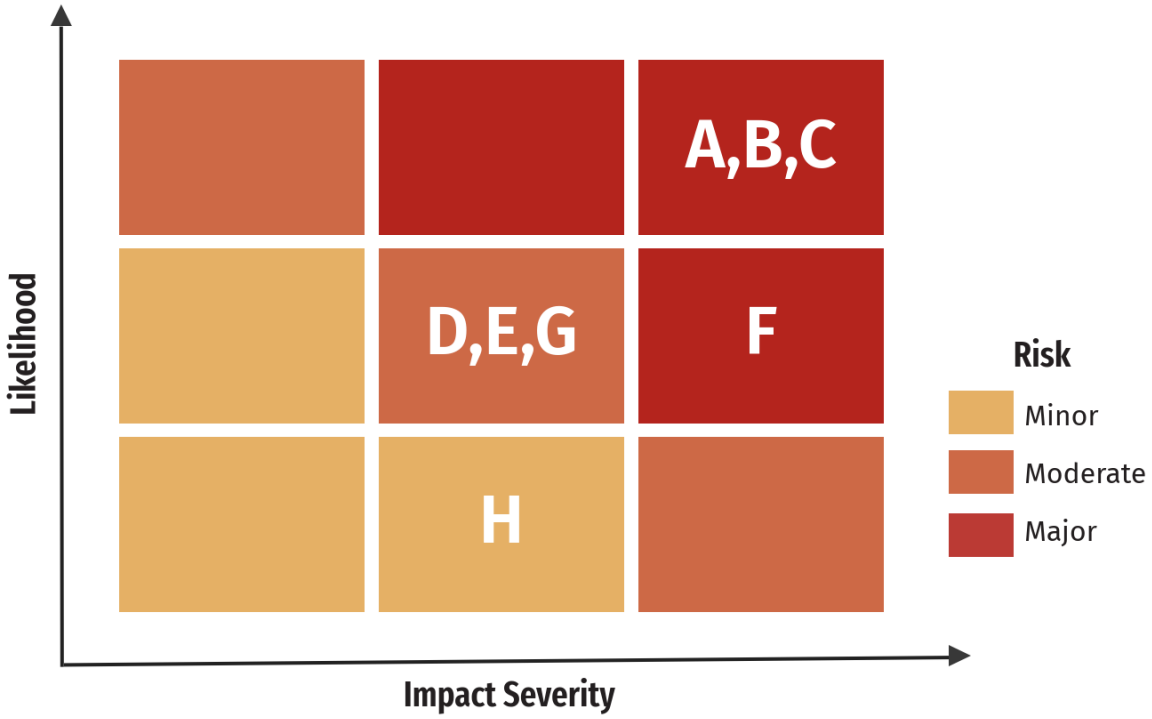
Anti-corruption measures will build

- Integrity
  - Transparency International Integrity Pact
- Accountability
  - CoST Assurance Approach
- Transparency
  - CoST Accountability Guidance

Image credit: D. Nelson, use of substandard materials - Mozambique

How to respond?

- Risk assessment
  - Identify priorities
  - Align with capacities



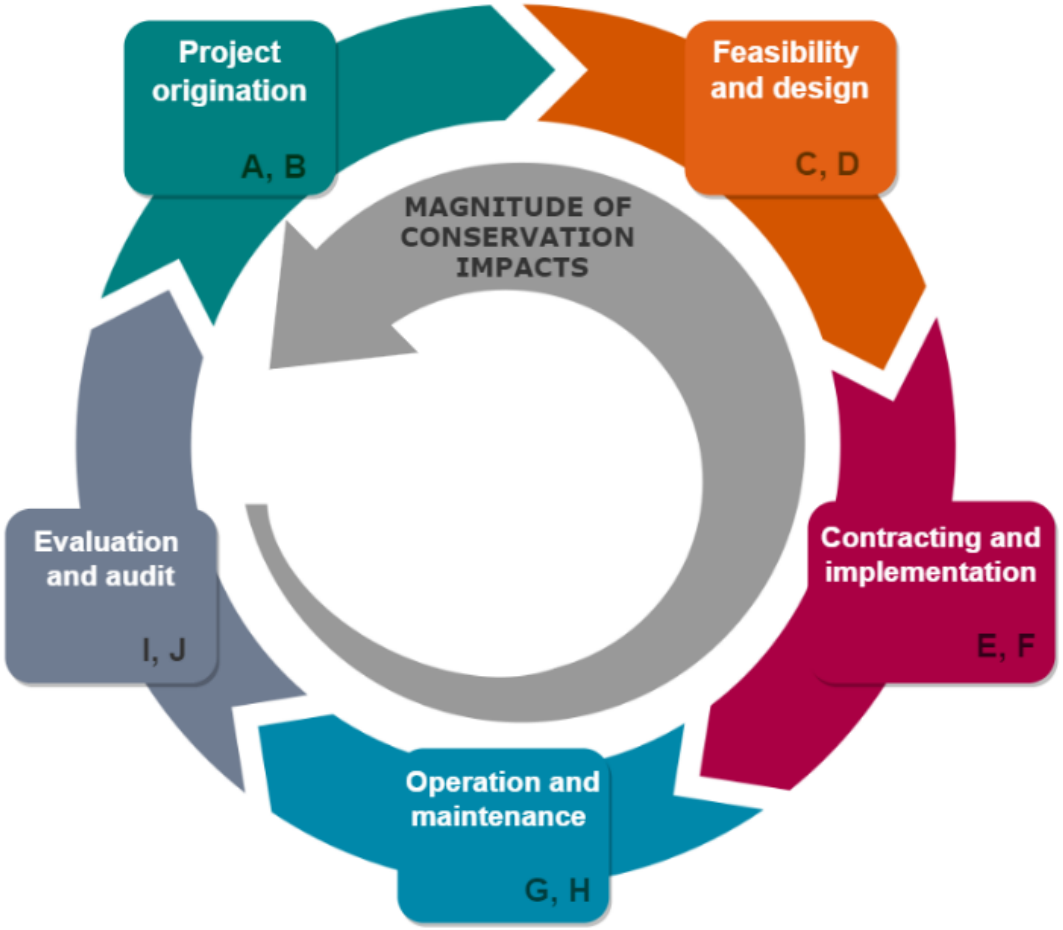


Image credit: Vinícius Mendonça/Ibama, Brumadinho dam break

Advocacy

- Structural and institutional levels
    - Questions to demand transparency

How does the project align with national or government strategic goals and conservation objectives?

    - Push for legal and regulatory change

WWF Brasil & TI Brasil

    - Formal justifications for project development
    - Maintain an official lobby registry
    - Implement whistleblower mechanisms

Direct action

- Implementing anti-corruption measures
- Open data standards
  - Availability and accessibility
  - Authority over data interpretation
  - Inclusive metrics – work with stakeholders
- Whistleblower mechanisms
- Working with investigative reporters

Image credit: WWF Archives

Infrastructure corruption and conservation

Risks exist throughout the lifecycle
Understanding risks and local capacities provides space for:
Advocacy and direct action

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Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Harnessing knowledge, generating evidence, and supporting innovative policy and practice for more effective anti-corruption programming

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