

Where to Start

Combating Corruption Behind Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

- » Corruption has been flagged as a critical factor in the loss of [420 million hectares](#) of forests globally between 1990 and 2020.
- » Conventional responses focus on strengthening law enforcement to intercept illegal logging, illegal wood trafficking, and criminal syndicates who use corruption to their advantage. These interventions are essential, but insufficient.
- » Reduce opportunities for corruption by advancing transparency in land use and forest management decisions and considering partnerships and new approaches to address how corruption may affect planned enforcement efforts and inclusive conservation approaches.

Building Anti-Corruption into Conservation Programming

1 UNDERSTAND CORRUPTION

Get familiar with how corruption impacts conservation and ways to respond

Take the TNRC eCourse

2 ASSESS YOUR SITUATION

Identify how corruption affects the objectives of your own programming

Find TNRC tools for situation analysis

3 ADAPT YOUR PROGRAMMING

Consider approaches that fit your needs

Remember: Evidence suggests that targeting corruption through multiple approaches yields best results



CASE STUDY: Harnessing big data to uncover and report corruption in the forestry sector



Reducing deforestation and ensuring legal and sustainable forest supply chains requires tackling corruption at multiple levels—starting with the point of access. Politically-exposed persons (individuals entrusted with a prominent public function) may award contracts and permissions to entities in exchange for private gain, such as bribes to themselves or via corporate vehicles or contacts from which they derive beneficial ownership or other advantageous control. Big data, including publicly accessible open data, has strong potential to identify such corrupt actors. TRAFFIC has piloted a new methodology for analyzing open data to uncover possible corruption in the forestry concession process involving public officials and/or their associates. Information packages are reported to national Financial Intelligence Units that have the power to freeze accounts and block transactions if further screening determines it to be warranted. This new data-mining approach is being applied to two countries in Latin America and Europe ([TNRC Research 2021-2023](#)).

This TNRC “Cheat Sheet” outlines pathways to get started with anti-corruption programming. For more information and resources, visit tnrcproject.org.

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