Where to Start

Preventing Corruption from Undermining Community-Based Conservation

- » As local communities, Indigenous peoples, and other actors at national or sub-national levels seek to assert or protect access rights and to sustainably manage and benefit from forests, fisheries, and wildlife resources, they can encounter significant challenges from corruption.
- » Corruption may marginalize women and other groups who already face power inequity and who rely heavily on environmental resources.
- » Programming to prevent corruption's impact on community-based conservation should be informed by a careful assessment of corrupt practices involved at various levels, the power and resources of change agents and their opponents, and associated risks.

Building Anti-Corruption into Conservation Programming



UNDERSTAND CORRUPTION

Get familiar with how corruption impacts conservation and ways to respond

Take the TNRC eCourse



ASSESS YOUR SITUATION

Identify how corruption affects the objectives of your own programming

Find TNRC tools for situation analysis



ADAPT YOUR PROGRAMMING

Consider approaches that fit your needs

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

Is corruption systemic and you're unsure where to target conservation interventions? Is corruption in law enforcement and the criminal justice system undermining rights and justice? Are natural resource governance systems incentivizing corruption by neglecting community needs?

Are concession and permitting systems insufficiently transparent, thus enabling corruption?

Are permissive social norms perpetuating corruption in your context?

Identify viable entry points

Explore the Situation Analysis Guide Ensure that rights are respected and laws and regulations are followed by strengthening integrity in law enforcement and the judiciary

Explore the Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Guide Ensure inclusive, rightsbased conservation approaches

Explore the Communities & Inclusion Guide Ensure access to information on public decisions, transparent approaches in community resource management, and that rules are followed

Explore the Open Governance Guide Integrate behavioral change approaches

Explore the Social Norms & Behavior Change Guide



CASE STUDY: Mobilizing youth to increase accountability in community forest governance

WWF Nepal is taking a human rights-based approach to better understand and address governance challenges in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), particularly how corruption undermines good governance in six focal CFUGs. A participatory assessment explored governance gaps and collected information on the socio-political context, engaging marginalized groups (including poor women, Dalit, and indigenous people). Findings from that assessment were used to target specific trainings for both duty bearers and rights holders, as well as state and non-state actors. The pilot advanced learning on the effectiveness of participatory, rights-based interventions to build transparency and accountability in community forest management. Based on that learning, the theory of change was expanded to include a hypothesis that youth, with appropriate training on risks and responsibilities, may be able to address the corruption risks in CFUG governance. The team is currently assessing their potential influence, both directly through their roles as youth leaders in the community and indirectly via their peers and parents (TNRC Pilot 2021-2023).

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

This content is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States Government, or individual TNRC consortium members.













