



Dear colleagues,

Despite the challenges and setbacks of the global pandemic, our work continues. Learning about the impact of corruption on biodiversity conservation outcomes and what factors may influence the success or failure of different types of anti-corruption efforts [is vital, now more than ever](#).

Understanding the political context for conservation work is critical to more effectively address corruption's impact on conservation and natural resource management (NRM) outcomes. Political Ecology Analysis is an inter-disciplinary approach that can help practitioners to better analyze why a landscape/seascape/wilderness may have come to exist and be managed in a particular way – and what the social and political consequences are. We hope you'll join us for a [TNRC Learning Series webinar](#) on August 13 to explore putting political ecology into practice, further.

There's a lot of excellent research by academics looking at these issues published in the [Journal of Political Ecology](#), [Political Geography](#), [Antipode](#), or in articles in Nature [such as this one on the SDGs](#) – but not much has made its way into every day use by practitioners.

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on using a political ecology approach in your work. In the meantime, stay safe, healthy, and sane during these turbulent times.

Regards,

**Richard Nash**



## Corrupting trade: An overview of corruption issues in illicit wildlife trade | TNRC Introductory Overview

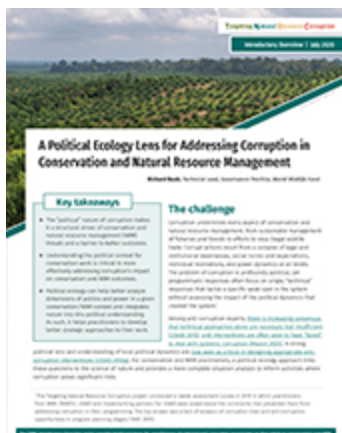
Sabri Zain, Director of Policy, TRAFFIC

Corruption is a key facilitator of illegal wildlife trade. In addition to measures called for in international and regional resolutions and treaties, efforts to address corruption should focus on areas such as streamlining and auditing permitting processes and controls; engaging the transport sector; strengthening stockpile management systems; improving traceability systems; addressing vulnerabilities in special economic zones; and employing behavior change approaches.



## Political Ecology in Anti-Corruption Efforts and Practice | TNRC Learning Series Webinar

A conservation paradox is unfolding in Guatemala's protected areas. In the Maya Biosphere, western national parks have experienced the world's highest deforestation rates since their creation despite strict conservation laws. By contrast, in the east, biodiversity is high and deforestation rates are close to zero. What explains rampant corruption and conservation crime in some areas versus successful conservation outcomes in others? In this webinar, Dr. Devine will briefly define political ecology and discuss how political ecology helps deepen understanding of corruption and conservation crime in Guatemala and beyond. [Register Here](#)



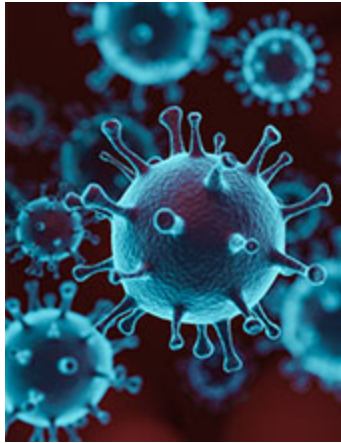
## A Political Ecology Lens for Addressing Corruption in Conservation and Natural Resource Management | TNRC Introductory Overview

Richard Nash, Technical Lead, Governance Practice, WWF

The “political” nature of corruption makes it a structural driver of conservation and natural resource management (NRM) threats and a barrier to better outcomes. Understanding the political context for conservation work is critical to more effectively addressing corruption’s impact on conservation and NRM outcomes. Political ecology can help better analyze dimensions of politics and power in a given conservation/NRM context and integrates nature into this political

understanding. As such, it helps practitioners to develop better strategic approaches to their work.

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## Illegal wildlife markets, zoonotic disease transfer and corruption—Connections and what the global community must do about it | **TNRC Blog Post**

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is greater international willingness to address illegal wildlife markets, especially those involving live animals. But to respond to this and future pandemics effectively, systems thinking, and a greater understanding of drivers and inter-sectoral approaches will be vital. This post captures insights on the connections between illegal wildlife markets, zoonotic disease transfer and corruption contributed by experts in the fields of wildlife ecology, public health, environment, development, transnational crime and wildlife trade at a TNRC virtual panel on 23 June 2020.

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### Share Good Practice

For [#conservation](#) and natural resource management practitioners, a [#PoliticalEcology](#) lens can help provide a more complete situation analysis to inform approaches where there may be [#corruption](#) risks. Learn more in [@TNRCproject](#)'s new publication: <https://bit.ly/tnrc-polecol>

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**Targeting Natural Resource Corruption**

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