



A note from the Chief of Party

Dear colleagues,

I'm very pleased to be sharing this inaugural newsletter of the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) project. This first update of many introduces the latest materials and resources published to the project's [Knowledge Hub](#). If you've found your way onto this mailing list, you may already know something about TNRC, but here's a brief look into what this project is about.

TNRC is a project funded by USAID to raise the profile of and strengthen approaches to corruption and anti-corruption efforts in conservation and natural resource management (NRM). We're a [consortium of anti-corruption and conservation organizations](#) with a task to share learning and provide new evidence to help conservation and NRM practitioners better address the negative impact of corruption on renewable natural resources.

We know that corruption undermines biodiversity conservation and natural resource management outcomes. Behind every seizure of elephant ivory, illegal, unreported or unregulated catch of fish, or illegally harvested piece of timber, evidence suggests that corruption may have helped to pave the way: [a bribe paid](#) to avoid customs inspections, [political favors exchanged](#) for preferential access to overfished stocks, or [a political position used](#) to win concessions that [degrade local communities' rights](#) and result in [widespread deforestation](#).

So we have a big task, and there's a good reason why it's not easy: Corruption is a dynamic, political phenomenon involving hidden behaviors. It's made easier by weak laws and regulations, and even more by weak enforcement of those laws and regulations. That can lead to a presumption that better laws and enforcement are the solution. But corruption is *driven* by a much broader array of forces including the

vast financial gains available from exploiting the environment, immense power and wealth inequalities between resource abusers and resource protectors, social norms that may justify side-stepping the rules because they aren't seen as legitimate, the dynamics of local political settlements and power arrangements, and a global financial system that too often makes financing illegal activities and hiding the proceeds simple and effective.

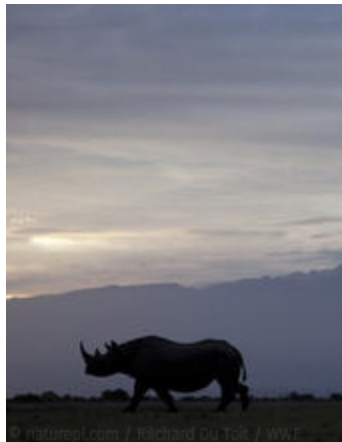
These challenges call for thorough, context-specific analysis of the problems and an expanded array of responses that focus on prevention as much as enforcement approaches. Be on the lookout for TNRC resources that help on both of these fronts. In the meantime: **What do you think?**

Let's keep the dialogue open.

Sincerely,
Liz



Dr. Elizabeth Hart
Chief of Party
Targeting Natural Resource Corruption



Dark Commerce: Undermining a sustainable future | **Video**

TNRC Resource

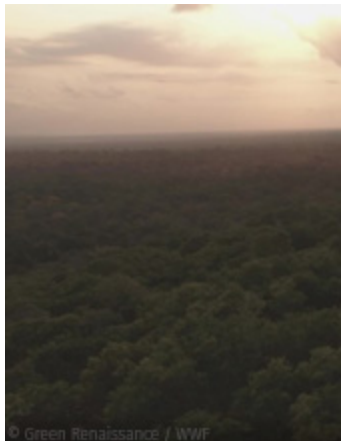
The illicit trade of natural resources and associated corruption threatens both biodiversity and the sustainability of our planet. This illicit activity decimates wildlife, puts our oceans and forests at risk, and undermines responses to climate change. Forests are illegally felled, carbon markets are hijacked by criminals, illegal pesticides destroy the soil, and more. Leading transnational crime expert Dr. Louise Shelley discusses the social, economic and environmental impacts of illicit trade and corruption, along with strategies that the conservation and natural resource management community can leverage to prevent them.



Ten anti-corruption take-aways from Forest Legality Week | [Blog Post](#)

TNRC Resource

Important progress has been made by the conservation and natural resource management communities to uncover red flags that signal where corruption may facilitate illicit timber trade and undermine wider conservation efforts. But exposing illegal activity and associated corruption aren't enough—a necessary next step is establishing an anti-corruption agenda. What should this agenda look like? This blog post by Rachel Kramer, Deputy Chief of Party for TNRC, outlines ten anti-corruption take-aways from case studies, tools, and responses presented in two sessions at Forest Legality Week 2019.



Making the connection: Trade-based money laundering, corruption, and natural resources | [Video](#)

TNRC Resource

Trade-based money laundering (TBML) is the process of disguising proceeds of crime and moving value through trade transactions to legitimize their illicit origin. This can include exploitation of the international trade system to transfer value and obscure the true origins of illicit wealth from the exploitation of natural resources. In this short video, Michele Kuruc (World Wildlife Fund), Louise Shelley (Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center), and Channing Mavrellis (Global Financial Integrity) explain the basics of TBML, how illicit activities in the natural resource sector generate profits that may be laundered through TBML, how corruption can fuel this process, and what tools are helping to detect this global crime.



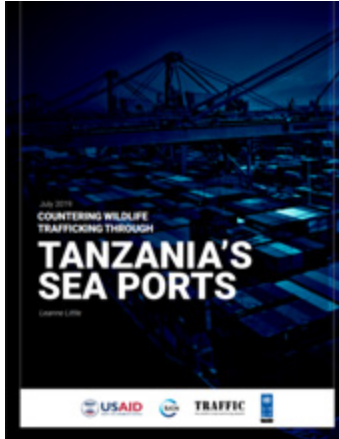
Illegal Logging, Fishing and Wildlife Trade: The Costs and How to Combat It | [External Resource](#)

World Bank Group Report

This new paper from the World Bank Group concludes that illegal logging, fishing and wildlife trade have a combined estimated value of USD 1 trillion or more per year and that governments in source countries forego an estimated USD 7-12 billion each year in potential revenues as a result of this illegality. The majority of these losses (over 90 percent) comes from estimated ecosystem services that are not currently priced by the market. The report recognizes corruption as a

pervasive facilitating factor behind environmental crime and illicit trade and provides a basic road map to address the root causes of these illegal activities.

Countering Wildlife Trafficking through Tanzania's Seaports | **Partner Resource**



TRAFFIC Report

This new report by TRAFFIC outlines vulnerabilities in transportation and customs capabilities that are exploited by criminal traffickers to move illicit wildlife products. African seaports that serve regional and international trade provide traffickers with multiple smuggling routes, and the container shipping industry particularly facilitates the movement of illicit goods. This report offers evidence from two seaports in Tanzania—Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar—on their involvement in wildlife trafficking. It also touches on the corruption that may be associated with organized criminal groups who orchestrate trafficking of wildlife, timber and fish.



Rotten Fish: A Guide on Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector | **External Resource**

UNODC Report

This 2019 guide by UNODC focuses on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector. It provides an overall framework for identifying and assessing the seriousness of corruption risks in the fisheries value chain. Organizations working to reduce the negative impact of corruption on fisheries management and sustainability will find this a valuable resource, but it is especially designed to help policymakers identify and address vulnerabilities to corruption in their legal and regulatory frameworks.

What We're Reading

- [Illicit Financial Flows & Colombia](#)
- [Asset recovery and illicit financial flows from a developmental perspective: Concepts, scope, and potential](#)
- [Combating corruption and illicit financial flows through law](#)
- [Conflict Prevention in Kenya: Combating Corruption through Nonviolent Action](#)

- [Understanding Social Norms: A reference guide for policy and practice](#)

Share Good Practice

To ensure a future for [#forests](#), prevent and address [#corruption](#). Check out these ten take-aways from Forest Legality Week 2019 on the [@TNRCproject](#) blog: <http://bit.ly/flw-blog>

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Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

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