



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Corruption Linked to Wildlife, Forest and Fisheries Crime

Concept note for a High-Level Event at the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto

Tuesday 21 April 2020, 9:00-10:30AM

There is an increasing recognition that to curb the global surge in wildlife trafficking, the international community must step up its efforts to fight the pervasive corruption that enables it. The facilitating role played by corruption in wildlife trafficking is amply documented in literature, including in UNODC's World Wildlife Crime Report, and sustained by a large body of empirical evidence related to past and ongoing criminal investigations. Corruption fuels and abets transnational organized crime and is particularly rife in higher-value wildlife trafficking. It is multifaceted and can occur at every stage of the wildlife, forest and fisheries value chain. Corruption can include bribes to access information on the movement of animals or patrols, obtain permits and quotas, or ensure that shipments are not inspected or seized.

UNODC, as guardian of the UN Conventions Against Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime, is working with partners from other international organizations, civil society and the private sector to build understanding and ensure that wildlife, forest and fisheries agencies are working together to prevent and address corruption. Various initiatives, tools and collaborative partnerships have emerged since the last Crime Congress in 2015.

This high-level event will highlight the challenges and showcase some of the promising approaches to address corruption linked to wildlife crime. Urgent action and political commitment are more than ever required if we are serious about protecting our planet's ecosystems and curbing biodiversity loss and deforestation. UNODC and its partners aim to build collective momentum and embed the issue of corruption linked to wildlife crime into the global crime prevention and criminal justice agenda for the next five years. Our distinguished panellists, hailing from different continents and contexts, will drive the discussion to inspire Member States to proactively address and mitigate corruption across their wildlife, forest and fisheries sectors.

Organizers: DO, DTA and DPA