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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION AS IT RELATES TO CRIMES THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

AN OVERVIEW

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Editing: Jaya Mohan

Design and Layout: Gerda Palmeshofer

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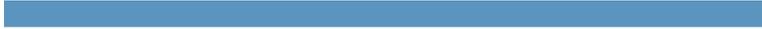
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1.





Purpose and scope



At its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 December 2019, the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC or the Convention) adopted resolution 8/12, entitled *Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment*. In that resolution, the Conference “...notes with concern the role that corruption can play in crimes that have an impact on the environment, which may constitute a growing source of profits for various criminal activities and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with States parties and relevant international and regional organizations, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct scientific-based research on the topics identified in the scope of this resolution...”



This paper aims to provide an overview of the relationship between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment and of the efforts made at the national and international levels to prevent and counter corruption related to such crimes, thereby contributing to the implementation of resolution 8/12.

Countries around the world are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate.¹ Environmental degradation, including the destruction and illegal exploitation of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna, can be fuelled by corruption. However, as this paper highlights, there is a dearth of information on corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, be it in the form of academic research, adjudicated cases or national data and statistics.

Such data, as it exists, has been analysed and supplemented by anecdotal evidence collected through UNODC’s interactions with the authorities responsible for wildlife, fisheries and forest management, law enforcement as well as those charged with preventing and countering corruption. An analysis of this data makes it clear that corruption is an enabler of crimes that have an impact on the environment. These include wildlife and forest crimes, crimes in the fisheries sector, trafficking in minerals, other natural resources and waste. Corruption threatens effective regulation of legitimate markets, hampers crime prevention and undercuts the efforts of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute crimes that have an impact on the environment. It further enables criminals to commit, conceal and avoid conviction for their crimes. It also deprives governments of revenue streams, and communities of their natural resources and livelihoods that are essential for sustainable wellbeing.

1 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020) Global Biodiversity Outlook 5. Montreal.

This paper starts by outlining the methodology used, before providing a non-exhaustive list of crimes that have an impact on the environment, and their known links to corruption. It goes on to present an analysis of selected criminal cases to further illustrate these links and describe the measures taken by governments to deter and prosecute these complex illegal activities. The paper then describes selected efforts and good practices to address corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. The final section discusses key points and measures that are needed to strengthen efforts to prevent and counter corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment.

2.



An aerial photograph of a forest clearing. The ground is a mix of reddish-brown soil and large stacks of cut logs. The logs are piled in several neat stacks, some showing signs of weathering and discoloration. The surrounding forest is dense with green foliage, and some tree trunks are visible in the background. The word "Methodology" is written in a white, serif font across the center of the image.

Methodology



The information presented in this paper is derived from the responses to the *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment*, sent via note verbale² to States parties in April 2021. The questionnaire (also referred to as survey) centred around two main areas: i) prevention and ii) criminal justice responses related to corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Questions focused on identifying the structures and processes that have been put in place to prevent, detect and prosecute these crimes. States parties were also asked to provide additional information on adjudicated cases and the challenges faced when addressing corruption as it relates to acts against the natural environment, as defined and codified by the UNODC *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)* under the category ‘acts against the natural environment’. Given that there is no official definition of crimes that have an impact on the environment nor an authoritative list of crimes that could be considered as such, to facilitate research and comparison, the survey used these definitions and codes, which are part of a global standard for the systematic collection, analysis, and use of crime and criminal justice statistics across institutions, jurisdictions, and countries (see Annex II).



The information presented in this paper was complemented by other sources available to UNODC, such as its ongoing interactions with authorities charged with wildlife, fisheries and forest management, law enforcement and the prevention of corruption; the ongoing analysis of the work done by relevant intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and the review of academic publications.

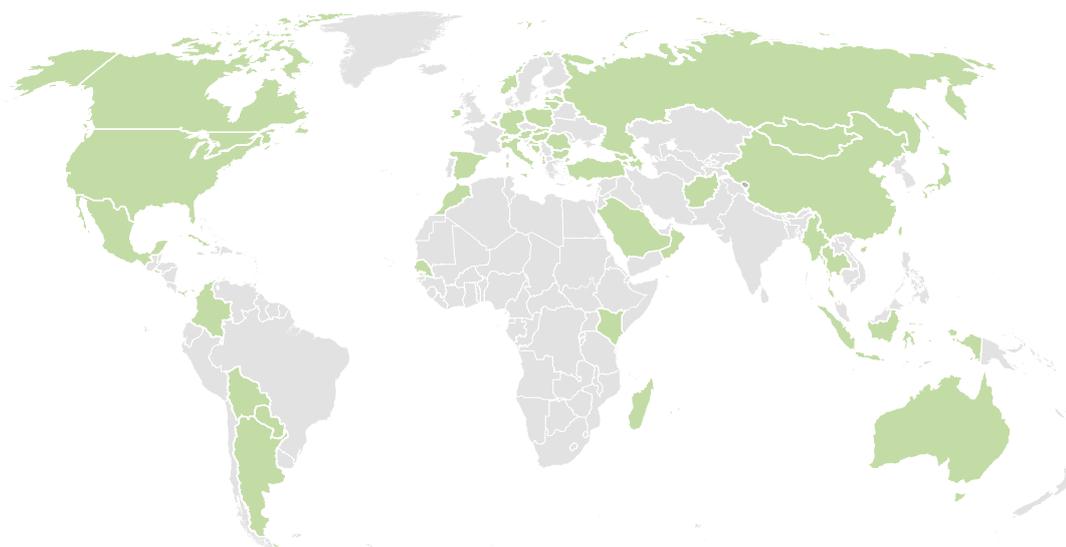
The questionnaire included both quantitative and qualitative questions. Some States parties did not respond to every question or only responded to parts of questions. The number of States parties that provided full responses to each question are indicated in tables and graphics. The questionnaire also contained short and long answer questions, such as summaries of adjudicated corruption cases. These qualitative questions were coded through an iterative process to identify broad themes (e.g., ‘complexity of the crime’ emerged as a commonly cited challenge to addressing corruption). Some States parties submitted more than one response to the questionnaire, with different agencies completing different sections. In cases when multiple survey responses from the same States party conflicted, the response from the agency with the mandate most relevant to the question e.g., a wildlife management authority’s response to questions on wildlife crime was used.

2 CU/2020/158

In all, 48 States parties responded to the questionnaire (see Figure 1).³ Annex I contains the complete list. In terms of regional breakdown, 8 per cent of the responses were from African States, 23 per cent from Asia-Pacific States, 29 per cent from Eastern European States, 17 per cent from Latin American and Caribbean States, and 23 per cent from Western European and other States (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

States parties that submitted responses to the questionnaire



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

There were some limitations in the analysis of the information provided through the questionnaire. In addition to the geographical unevenness mentioned above, many of the questionnaire responses (79 per cent) were incomplete, with States parties leaving one or more questions blank. Questions left blank were treated as “missing” data.

A few of the responding States parties (8 per cent) did not reply to the questions (i.e., all question responses were blank). Instead, they submitted written statements about the state of corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Written responses that included information directly related to questions were included in the quantitative analysis (for example, the presence or absence of a particular method of corruption prevention). When relevant, information from these written responses was also included in the qualitative analysis of the questionnaire, such as details on an adjudicated corruption case.

³ This analysis includes responses received until 15 September 2021. Responses received thereafter could not be included.

Some States parties noted that they did not have a national system for collecting information or statistics, which made responding to some questions challenging. For example, one States party noted that “... the decentralized nature of [country]’s legal framework presents challenges to completing the centralized approach of this questionnaire.” These challenges may explain why the response rates for some questions on corruption statistics related to the environment were low.

In general, although there is a clear and growing realization of the alarming (and at times irreversible) impact that corruption can have on the environment, human security and local economies, research and literature related to corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment remains limited. It is to be noted that even recent major studies, such as the sixth assessment report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), do not include considerations related to corruption.

3.



A large flock of birds, possibly terns, is seen in flight against a clear blue sky. Below them, the ocean is a deep blue with white-capped waves. In the lower-left corner, a small group of yellow birds is visible near the water's surface. The overall scene is a natural, coastal environment.

*Corruption as it
relates to crimes
that have an
impact on the
environment*

Crimes that have an impact on the environment often transcend borders. As explained earlier, under the ICCS, these crimes fall under the category “acts against the natural environment”. A complete description of the relevant ICCS classifications can be found in Annex II.

Corruption enables a wide range of crimes, including those that have an impact on the environment. It can be described as the oil that lubricates the engine of these illegal activities, making it easier and more profitable for perpetrators to commit these crimes.

The damage caused by the symbiotic relationship between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment may be sizeable and irreversible. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), close to 420 million hectares of forest have been lost between 1990 and 2020 as a result of deforestation,⁴ corruption being among the main factors widely recognized as a crucial enabler of the illegal exploitation of forest resources⁵ which also affects forest biodiversity. Therefore, in order to adopt effective measures against these crimes, it is vital to recognize and understand the nature and extent of the relationship between corruption and the illegal activities that have an impact on the environment.

In the past few years, UNODC has organized meetings of experts to inform the development of knowledge products related to corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment. Discussions during these meetings highlighted that criminals may engage in corrupt practices for many reasons, including to create a veneer of legitimacy, to facilitate criminal operations, to undermine the criminal justice system, or to influence regulatory and political decision-making. These behaviours are elaborated on further in relation to specific types of crimes below.

This section presents a non-exhaustive list of crimes that have an impact on the environment and illustrates their links to corruption. It also provides examples of adjudicated cases of corruption and economic crime linked to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Each section contains a summary of the adjudicated cases reported by responding States parties.

4 FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

5 Treue, T.; Muir, G. (2018). Forest Governance. FAO, Forestry Department. Available at <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/modules/forest-governance/basic-knowledge/en/?type=111>; Koyuncu, C., & Yilmaz, R. (2009). The Impact of Corruption on Deforestation: A Cross-Country Evidence. *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 42(2), 213–222. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40376217>; and, Galinato, G. I. and Galinato, S. P. (2013) ‘The short-run and long-run effects of corruption control and political stability on forest cover’, *Ecological Economics*, 89, pp. 153–161. doi: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2013.02.014.

3.1 Corruption as it relates to wildlife crime

For the purposes of this paper, “wildlife” refers to specimens of all wild fauna and flora, including their parts and derivatives; and “wildlife crime” to the taking (gathering, hunting), trading (supplying, selling, trafficking or buying), importing, exporting, processing, possessing, obtaining and consuming of wild fauna and flora, in contravention of national or international law.⁶ National legal frameworks vary in how they criminalize the various actions encompassed by the term ‘wildlife crime’. For example, several countries criminalize activities that fall under the ICCS classification, including a) trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora; b) illegal hunting⁷ and c) trafficking in protected species across national borders. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has 182 Parties. Data on regulatory frameworks exists for 131 Parties. As of 2016, only 26 per cent had a maximum penalty of more than four years imprisonment for violations of the Convention.⁸ The majority of Parties do not treat these violations as serious crimes, as defined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

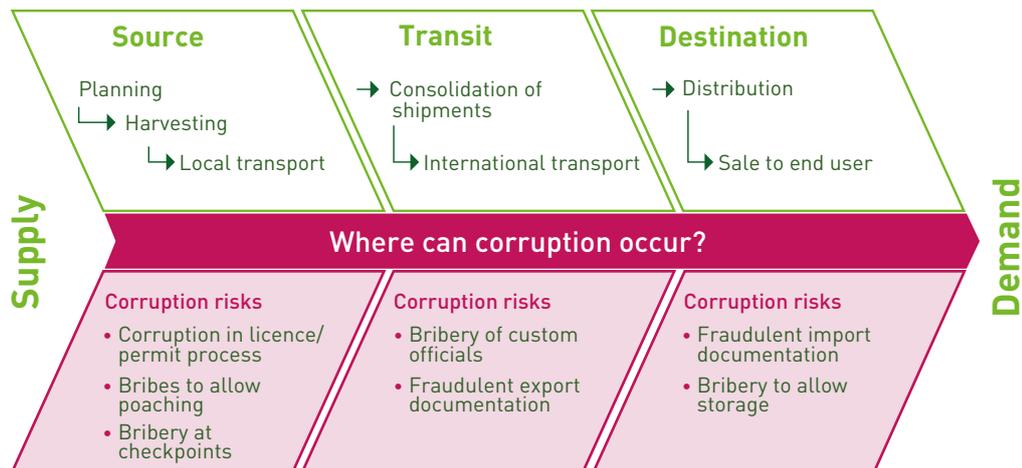
As for all crimes, the drivers of wildlife crime are multiple and interrelated. Demand for protected species is one of these drivers. For example, some species are illegally hunted for specific body parts, such as skins, shells, tusks, and horns among others, which are then commonly sold for medicinal or ornamental purposes.⁹ Other sources of demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products include the culinary, cosmetic and pet markets, zoos, breeding, and culturally sanctioned uses.¹⁰

Corruption can facilitate all forms of wildlife crime, affecting countless species, which in turn can alter ecosystems and negatively impact the environment. Corruption can take place throughout the value chain, in source, transit and destination countries for wildlife and wildlife products, and involve both public and private sector actors. It can be ad hoc, involving smaller

-
- 6 Several resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have called for measures to prevent and combat trafficking in wildlife, see Annex III. See also John E. Cooper, Margaret E. Cooper and Paul Budgen, *Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation: Techniques, Tools and Technology*. Contained in *Endangered Species Research*, Vol. 9: 229–238 (2009). For further explanation on illicit and illegal trade, see United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Licit and Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products: Lessons from the Natural Resource Management, Trade Regulation and Criminal Justice Sectors* (2018, p. 2).
- 7 See Plumptre, A. J., Fuller, R. A., Rwetsiba, A., Wanyama, F., Kujirakwinja, D., Driciru, M., & Possingham, H. P. (2014). Efficiently targeting resources to deter illegal activities in protected areas. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 51(3), 714–725 and Spencer, M.D. (2020). *The Problem of Wildlife Poaching on U.S. Federal Lands. A Problem-Solving Guide: Wilderness Problems, Guide No. 1*. Phoenix, AZ: Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, Arizona State University.
- 8 UNODC, *World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in protected species* (2016).
- 9 See Ayling, J. (2013). What sustains wildlife crime? Rhino horn trading and the resilience of criminal networks. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*, 16(1), 57–80; Everatt, K. T., Kokes, R., & Pereira, C. L. (2019). Evidence of a further emerging threat to lion conservation; Targeted poaching for body parts. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 28(14), 4099–4114; and, Mandimbihasina, A. R., Woolaver, L. G., Concannon, L. E., Milner-Gulland, E. J., Lewis, R. E., Terry, A., Filazaha, L.L., Rabetafika, L.L., & Young, R. P. (2018). The illegal pet trade is driving Madagascar’s ploughshare tortoise to extinction. *Oryx*, 54(2), 1–9.
- 10 See Negi, V. S., Maikhuri, R. K., Phondani, P. C., & Rawat, L. S. (2010). An inventory of indigenous knowledge and cultivation practices of medicinal plants in Govind Pashu Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary, Central Himalaya, India. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management*, 6(3–4), 96–105; Phelps, J., & Webb, E. L. (2015). “Invisible” wildlife trades: Southeast Asia’s undocumented illegal trade in wild ornamental plants. *Biological Conservation*, 186, 296–305; and, Sosnowski, M. C., Weis, J. S., & Petrossian, G. A. (2020). Using crime script analysis to understand the illegal harvesting of live corals: Case studies from Indonesia and Fiji. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 36(3), 384–402.

amounts of money and lower-level officials, or systemic, involving larger amounts of money and higher-level officers. Figure 2 below depicts a generic value chain¹¹ for the wildlife trade, highlighting parts of the process vulnerable to corruption.

Figure 2
Generic value chain for wildlife trade



Source: *Scaling Back Corruption: A guide on addressing corruption for wildlife management authorities*. UNODC. Vienna. 2019.

Wildlife criminals may engage in corrupt practices for many reasons, that include:

- **To create a veneer of legitimacy:**
As a result of corruption, illegal enterprises can be presented as legitimate sources of wildlife. They can obtain permits to trade wildlife in contravention of laws and regulations, enabling the laundering and introduction of illegal goods into legal markets. The CITES Secretariat has recognized that there is a high degree of involvement of organized criminal groups and networks and that they frequently make use of corrupt practices to facilitate this seemingly legal trade.¹² Legitimate businesses and front companies can also be used to launder illegally obtained wildlife and wildlife products.
- **To facilitate criminal operations:**
Corruption inhibits the ability of public officials to fulfil their mandates, whether those be managing and protecting wildlife resources, protecting borders, or managing and regulating markets for wildlife products, as bribes can nullify all existing controls. The cases presented in Boxes 1 and 2 showcase this aspect of corruption.

11 No “one size fits all” value chain exists; this value chain is a hypothetical example, as no single chain (or order of events in a value chain) can correctly describe the process across every country.

12 Conf. 17.6 Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention. Available at https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-17-06_0.pdf.

- **To undermine the criminal justice system:**

Corruption can also hinder every step and actor of the of criminal justice systems, as it can affect law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, witnesses and victims of crime.

In responses to the questionnaire, 15 adjudicated wildlife crime cases related to corruption or money-laundering were reported. More than half (65 per cent) of these cases involved illegal wildlife possession or trade. For example, one States party reported that the abuse of office by public servants facilitated the illegal trade in turtles and other animals in five cases. Corruption also played a role in the transportation of wildlife, such as pangolins, rhino horns and monkeys across national borders, with one reported case involving organized crime. Other instances involved a public official allowing hunters to target avian, reptile and amphibian species in danger of extinction. In another reported case, a corrupt public official used insider information to help two citizens create a veneer of legitimacy by establishing a shell company to win a glass eel procurement process, which has a legal market per se.

In addition, two States parties described cases of money-laundering in the reptile, bird and ivory trade. For example, reptile traders used different methods such as cross-border movement of cash, bank transfers, payments through a large money or value transfer service provider, and “in-kind” transactions (exchange of wildlife of equal value). In these cases, charges were laid for both illegal wildlife possession and trade, and money-laundering.

One response to the questionnaire depicted two examples of the close relationship between corruption and wildlife crime in the exotic fish and flower trades. These are outlined in Boxes 1 and 2.

Box 1

Exotic fish imports

This case involved systemic and ongoing breach of trust and abuse of function by a senior biosecurity official.

The biosecurity official was responsible for inspecting cargo and euthanizing illegally imported specimens. He used his position to facilitate the illegal importation of rare, non-native, CITES-listed fish and stole specimens he was tasked with euthanizing. He then sold the exotic fish online under an alias.

In 2019, he pleaded guilty to three offences related to abuse of public office, dealing with proceeds of crime, and illegal possession of wildlife. The court sentenced him to three years imprisonment. An appeal in 2020 was dismissed.

Source:

Australia's response to UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

Box 2**Flower imports**

This case demonstrates the role that corrupt government officials can play in facilitating the transportation of wildlife.

Between 2011-2017, a quarantine inspector received payments in cash, gifts, and international travel from a father and son who owned a flower import business. The importers paid bribes to avoid the usual quarantine inspections of imported flower products and, in exchange for confidential information on competitors and their suppliers, which the inspector obtained from an internal Department of Agriculture & Water database.

The flowers were imported from Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and South America, and were subject to quarantine inspections intended to prevent disease and other biosecurity risks from entering the country. The importers gained a significant commercial advantage by avoiding complete quarantine inspections, which can take time and reduce a flower's shelf-life (and therefore value).

In 2019, the quarantine inspector was sentenced to three years imprisonment and fined almost \$10,000 for receiving a bribe and disclosing information. One of the importers pleaded guilty to corrupting a public official and was sentenced to imprisonment of 18 months and fined almost \$20,000. The other importer was charged with aiding and abetting the commission of an offence and sentenced to seven months imprisonment.

Source:

Australia's response to *UNODC Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

3.2 Corruption as it relates to crimes in the fisheries sector

The fisheries sector¹³ is one of the most critical industries for food security, poverty alleviation and human prosperity worldwide, with global fish production peaking at about 179 million tons in 2018.¹⁴ Nevertheless, almost 60 per cent of fish stocks are already being exploited to their maximum sustainable limits, and an estimated 34.2 per cent of fish species are being fished at unsustainable levels.¹⁵ Crimes in the fisheries sector are among the factors that have led to this

13 Although there are many available definitions for the “fisheries sector”, this paper will use the definition provided by the North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group (NAFIG), which is “commercial marine and freshwater fishing and/or harvesting and aquaculture (the farming or culturing of fish, mollusks, crustaceans and seaweed), and connected businesses.”

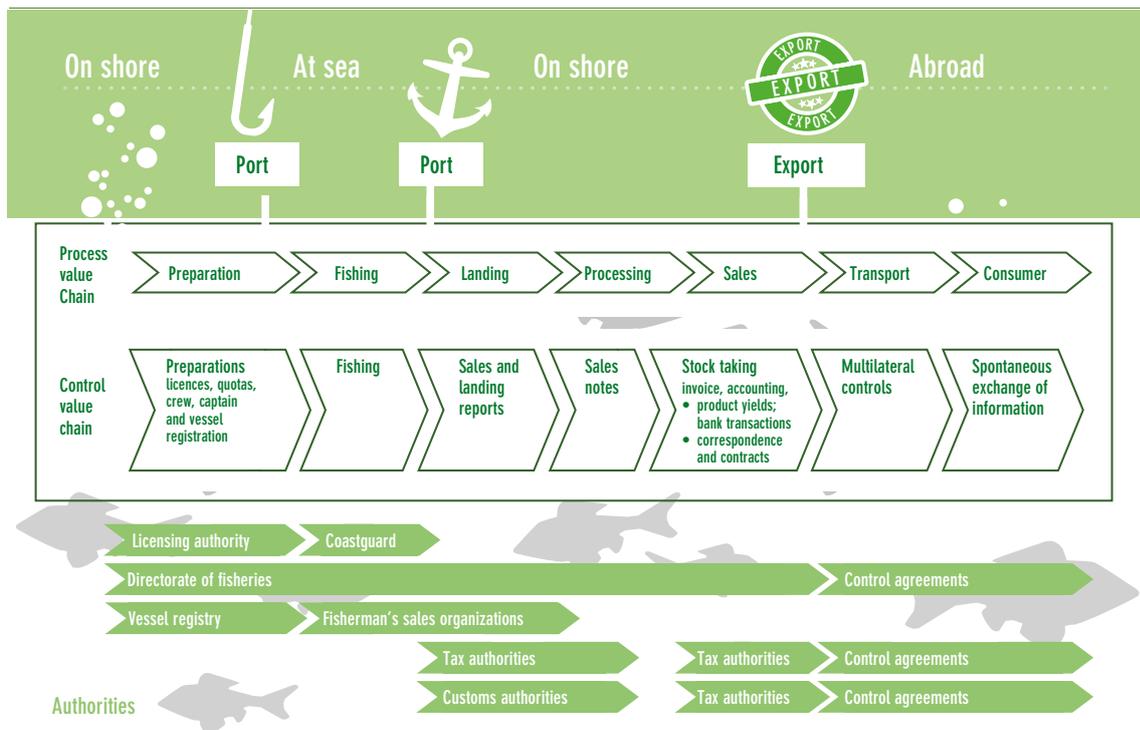
14 FAO. 2020. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action*. Rome. p. 2.

15 *Ibid.*

critical situation. UNODC’s work on crimes in the fisheries sector covers a broad range of illegal activities that may occur at one or more stages of the fisheries value chain. These offences:¹⁶

- Are different to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, although they are often related and occur at the same time;
- May or may not be directly linked to the fishing operations;
- May meet the criteria for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption to apply.

Figure 3
Fisheries value chain model*



* adapted from the OECD value chain model
Source: *Rotten Fish: A guide on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector* (UNODC Vienna. 2019. p. 17)

16 Fisheries Crime: transnational organized criminal activities in the context of the fisheries sector. UNODC. Vienna. Available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/about-unodc/Campaigns/Fisheries/focus_sheet_PRINT.pdf

National legal frameworks vary in how they define and sanction crimes in the fisheries sector. For example, 79 per cent of States parties that responded to the questionnaire reported that acts of illegal fishing, as defined by ICCS, are classified as criminal offences, but variations were reported. Some States parties have fishing offences listed under their criminal codes, others under royal decree or specific fisheries acts. One States party reported that illegal fishing in federally managed marine fisheries is generally not a criminal offence, except in cases that fall under specific provisions that regulate fishing of particular species (e.g., Atlantic Salmon and Pacific Halibut).

Corruption facilitates these crimes. As the model value chain above shows, each step involves interactions with public authorities, including licensing bodies, inspectors and auditors, customs and tax authorities. Each interaction can give rise to risks of corruption. Understanding these interactions and risks is critical to preventing corruption and crimes in the fisheries sector and the success of any subsequent investigation or prosecution action.

Box 3

Fishing licences

In this case, a Minister abused his authority by issuing fishing licences which were “rewarded” by access to a “loan” for a personal business venture.

The Minister of Marine Resources of the Cook Islands had the statutory authority to issue fishing licences. Exploiting his position, he established a close friendship with the Chief Operating Officer of Luen Thai Fishing Venture Ltd, one of Asia-Pacific region’s largest fishing and seafood companies. Between 2011 and 2013, the Minister issued foreign fishing vessel licences to 18 vessels affiliated with this company.

In June 2012, the Minister became involved in a personal business venture to buy a local resort. He was unable to secure the necessary funds through a bank loan, so he approached the Chief Operating Officer of Luen Thai. They agreed to a loan of \$256,745 from Luen Thai’s Cook Island company that would be issued to the Minister’s business partner.

A bank declined to lend the Minister additional money after they flagged the loan from Luen Thai as a conflict of interest. The Chief Operating Officer of Luen Thai also informed the Minister that the Luen Thai board was concerned that the political opposition in Cook Islands could use the loan arrangement to attack the Minister and the company, but he said he would try to convince them otherwise.

The Minister was found guilty of obtaining a bribe for issuing fishing licences under section 133 of the Cook Islands Crime Act of 1969. He was sentenced to four years and four months imprisonment.

Source:

UNODC *Rotten Fish: A Guide to Addressing Corruption in the Fisheries Sector*, 2019 (Box 4, p. 11)
Cook Islands, Case number C.R. No. 594/15

There are three main behaviours involved in crimes in the fisheries sector:¹⁷

- **To create a veneer of legitimacy:**

This occurs when established businesses use illegal means to increase their profits or competitiveness. Individuals exhibiting this behaviour may be tempted to pay bribes to obtain quotas or licenses, or to bribe inspectors to incorrectly record the volume or species that have been landed. Box 3 is an example of this behaviour.

- **To facilitate criminal operations:**

This behaviour is typical of organized criminal groups who operate criminal enterprises. These groups see high-value/low-volume marine resources as a low-risk/high-profit opportunity. Examples of the species that these groups target include abalone, totoaba and sturgeon. These groups may rely on bribery to facilitate their schemes, for example bribing law enforcement to turn a blind eye to their illegal operations or bribing border control officials to allow their products to reach markets. Box 4 is an example of this behaviour.

- **To influence decision-making:**

This behaviour is driven by the fact that many fishing operations occur in small and often remote communities where the fishermen and those who are tasked with regulating their conduct may live in proximity. For example, in many traditional fishing communities, it is a common practice that when a vessel lands its catch at port and reports the value and type of catch, the crew presents fish to the inspection officers. This is often seen as a traditional gesture of hospitality rather than as a bribe. This behaviour, however, may influence the decision-making of the inspector, or at least give rise to a perception of improper influence.

In responses to the questionnaire, three adjudicated cases of crimes in the fisheries sector related to corruption and money-laundering were reported. One case involved a senior fisheries administrator facilitating illegal fishing and trade of blue fin tuna, while the two other cases were related to corruption in the fisheries licencing process. An additional fisheries case was reported by a States party under the wildlife category instead of fisheries. This case involved eels and was included in the wildlife category because eels fall under CITES and are therefore subject to laws on the trade in endangered flora and fauna. The case in Box 4 aims to further depict the symbiotic relationship between corruption and crimes in the fisheries sector.

¹⁷ UNODC (2019). Rotten Fish: A guide on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector. Vienna. Available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/Rotten_Fish.pdf

Box 4**Abalone trade**

The South African Abalone case demonstrates the intersection between corruption, money-laundering, racketeering, and illegal fishing at the source and transit stages of the abalone supply chain.

Abalone (*Haliotis midae*), a marine mollusc endemic to Southern Africa, is harvested primarily for export to Asian markets as a seafood delicacy. As a high-value product, it has become an attractive black market commodity. Unfortunately, illegal harvesting and overfishing has depleted wild populations, threatening both local biodiversity and legitimate fisheries.

In this case, the defendant coordinated illegal fishing activities, purchased illegally obtained abalone, and was involved in the unlawful possession and sale of abalone destined for international markets. He facilitated this through ongoing corrupt relationships with nine officials of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), who actively sought to sell confiscated abalone and fishing equipment and took bribes to not interfere in illegal activity and abalone shipments. In one instance, the defendant paid DAFF officials to drive ahead of his associates to ensure that other enforcement officers did not detect their illegal abalone shipment. The defendant also laundered money made from the sale of illegally sourced abalone.

An inter-agency investigative team comprised of specialized units working on serious organized crime, corruption, and economic crime exposed the defendant's involvement in the illegal abalone trade during a joint operation with the DAFF's Special Investigative Unit. Their investigation resulted in the arrest of the defendant and his associates.

The defendant was charged with violating the Preventing and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004, for participating in an enterprise (racketeering), 16 counts of corruption, and two counts of money-laundering. He was also charged with 22 counts under the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 for illegal possession and transport of abalone. The defendant signed a Plea and Sentencing Agreement admitting guilt and pleading guilty to 42 counts. He was sentenced to 244 years imprisonment, to be served concurrently over 18 years.

Sources:

Raemaekers, S., Hauck, M, Bürgener, M. et al., (2011). Review of the causes of the rise of the illegal South African abalone fishery and consequent closure of the rights-based fishery. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 54, 433–445.

SAPS (2020). Media Statement from Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (HAWKS) South African Police Service: Pair sentenced in abalone poaching syndicate, 2020-11-25. <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=29598>

SAPS (2021). Media Statement from Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (HAWKS) South African Police Service: Six Cape Town abalone syndicate members sentenced, 2021-04-20. <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=32124>

3.3 Corruption as it relates to forest loss

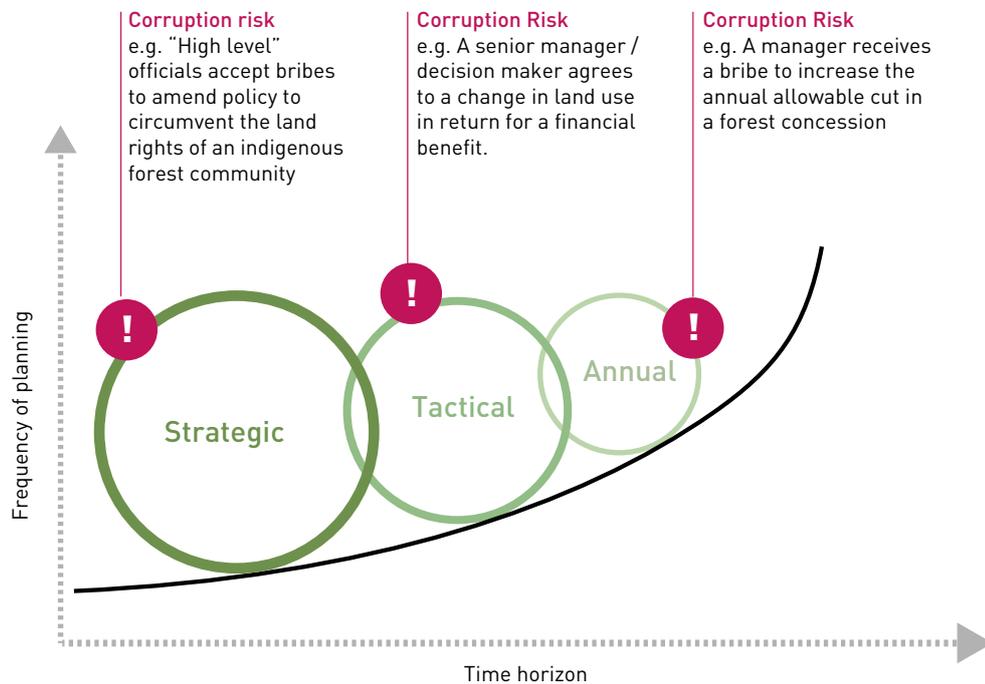
Forest loss is driven not only by illegal logging or timber trafficking but also by other activities such as agriculture and mining. Another driver is the fact that forest land often has greater economic value once the forest is cleared and classified as being appropriate for agricultural or other purposes. The market value of the four primary commodities that drive deforestation in tropical countries (palm oil, soy, beef, and timber) exceeds \$836 billion a year.¹⁸ This significant economic incentive makes the sector vulnerable to corruption by those seeking to exploit forest land for short-term gain. One States party reported that money-laundering may be an enabler of land clearing activities, stating that: “It is possible that proceeds of crime may finance the purchase of agriculture properties and subsequent land clearing activity. Illegal logging may also be an avenue to launder funds through transfer pricing or trade-based money-laundering”. Corruption enables the illegal exploitation of forests, weakens environmental protection initiatives as well as law enforcement efforts, and threatens legal trade.

Supply chain models usually do not capture the complex issues related to forest loss. There are many economic activities involved in forest loss with unique characteristics and actors, and therefore unique supply chains. Instead, to better understand the role that corruption plays, one can focus on the systems of forest management in a country and how corruption may pervade all stages of the forest management process. There are different planning models,¹⁹ such as the three-level nested planning cycle model, which separates planning processes into the interconnected strategic, tactical, and annual (or operational) cycles. Each of the planning cycles provides the basis for the next level of planning, which in turn also feeds back into the higher planning level as results and information are collected over time. These cycles formalize actions necessary for the successful management of forest land, and more importantly when those actions should ideally take place. These three planning levels are visualized in Figure 4.

18 Calculations based on the following estimates and provided only to demonstrate the scale of the amounts involved. Soy beans: \$146 billion (2017), see www.transparencymarketresearch.com/soybean-market, Palm oil: \$60 billion (2014), see www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/97/2/18-220434/en/. Beef: \$386 billion (2018), Research and Markets, World – Beef (Cattle Meat) – Market Analysis, Forecast, Size, Trends and Insights” (2018). Timber: \$244 billion <http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80938/en/>.

19 See for example, Verhoeven, Marijn; Magrath, William; Robbins, Amanda; Kallaur, Emily (2019) Mobilizing and Managing Public Forestry Revenue. Governance Discussion Paper, No. 1; World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33086> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Figure 4
Forest planning cycles and corruption risks*



KEY:



size of circle = potential impact of corruption on forests
 The level of forest management planning correlates to the impact corruption (that takes place within this level of planning) has on forests.

* derived from the module on Forest Management Planning – FAO, <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/modules/forest-management-planning/tools/en/?type=111>
 Source: Mobilizing and Managing Public Forestry Revenue p.17 – World Bank <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33086>

How these three planning levels can be utilized to portray corruption related to forest loss is described as follows:

- **Strategic level:**

Characterized by influencing and manipulating the adoption of longer-term policy decisions that will impact the use of forests and/or forest land. It is differentiated from the other planning levels as corruption at this level will directly impact outcomes at all other levels and have extended financial, social and environmental detrimental effects. Examples include lawmakers being illegally influenced to pass laws that are favourable to the land conversion interests of a particular economic sector e.g., agribusinesses; abuse of functions to facilitate the approval of the mining project in a primary forest for 30 years.

- **Tactical level:**

Characterized by corrupt implementation of policy decisions such as demarcation of boundaries and classification of land. Examples include officials creating monopolies by only providing forest use permits to a limited number of preferred or related companies; bribery of public officials to secure permits or receive concessions (often in areas with high-value trees or in protected areas). The case in Box 5 highlights corruption as it relates to forest crime at the tactical level.

- **Operational level:**

Corrupt acts at this level often include everyday activities in the field and short-term planning, usually at a local level. For instance, embezzlement of funds destined for regulatory activities; bribes being paid to inspectors to deliberately not carry out their oversight duties.

Box 5

Abuse of government position and forest concessions

This case is an example of abuse of position by a governor who sold forest concessions to a paper company.

Between 2001 and 2007, the governor of an Indonesian province circumvented the required processes for granting and issuing commercial forest concessions and licenses. He issued permits to several privately-owned companies, many of which were set up by the governor himself or by his staff and family.

These previously low-worth companies were then sold at a huge mark-up (due to the inclusion of the valuable permits) to several large multinational paper and pulp conglomerates. The governor gained about \$871,000 from this scheme, while his brother gained \$590,000, and the head of the Forestry Office in Rieu illicitly obtained \$57,100.

The governor also oversaw another similar corrupt initiative in neighbouring Siak Regency, in which the head of the Regency ordered the head of the forestry department to authorize the commercial forest concession licenses for five companies without carrying out the required checks. These companies bribed the head of the Regency (\$60,600) and the head of the forestry department (\$63,800). In 2014, the corrupt officials were sentenced to between 5 to 14 years in prison.

Sources:

Anti-Corruption Court at the Central Jakarta District Court, Decision No. 06/PID.B/ TPK/2008/PN.JKT.PST.

Anti-Corruption Court at the High Court of Jakarta, Decision No. 12/PID/TPK/ 2008/PT.DKI. Anti-Corruption Court at the Supreme Court, Decision No. 736 K/Pid.Sus/2009.

Anti-Corruption Court at the Pekanbaru District Court, Decision No. 10/PID.SUS/ 2011/PN.PBR.

Anti-Corruption Court at the Supreme Court, Decision No. 226 PK/Pid.Sus/2012.

Sofie Arjon Schütte and Laode M. Syarif. Tackling forestry corruption in Indonesia Lessons from KPK prosecutions.

U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Chr. Michelsen Institute (U4 Issue 2020:15).

In responses to the questionnaire, 15 adjudicated cases linked to forest loss and corruption and money-laundering were reported. Cases fall primarily under the tactical and operational level described above. Adjudicated cases included acts of embezzlement, abuse of function (e.g., officials forging licenses; public official entered false data to reduce tariffs for felled trees), and bribery with the involvement of both public and private actors (business/corporations/organizations). Officials were bribed to ignore illegal logging activity (i.e., public officials failed to execute duties); obtain access to cut timber in forests; grant forged logging licenses; and, falsify documents on the origin of the timber. For example, park rangers tasked with the supervision of a protected area requested a bribe in exchange for the taking of a 5m³ ash tree (listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species). In other cases, public officials were paid to falsify timber origin certificates and to issue illegal logging licenses.

3.4 Corruption as it relates to waste trafficking and related offences

For the purpose of this paper, the term “waste” entails hazardous and/or non-hazardous waste. The term “waste trafficking” includes any domestic or transnational movement or dumping of waste that are not in accordance with environmental regulations.²⁰ These activities include the illegal collection, transport, storage, transfer or disposal of waste.²¹ Some countries take cognizance of this type of activity under terminology such as illegal movement or dumping of waste.²²

The legal disposal of waste can have higher costs than the illegal disposal of the same; this can incentivize corporate polluters and corrupt public officials to traffic in waste.²³ Corrupt practices may often involve multiple sets of stakeholders, including national and local lawmakers and regulators, environmental and other competent authorities, port authorities, police officers, customs officials, landowners, traders and brokers, shipping lines, importers and exporters.

20 Tompson, L; Chainey, S; (2011) Profiling Illegal Waste Activity: Using Crime Scripts as a Data Collection and Analytical Strategy. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 17 (3) 179–201. 10.1007/s10610-011-9146-y.

21 Calderoni, Francesco & Favarin, Serena & Garofalo, Lorella & Sarno. (2014). Counterfeiting, illegal firearms, gambling and waste management: an exploratory estimation of four criminal markets. *Global Crime*. 15. 10.1080/17440572.2014.883499; Liddick, D. The traffic in garbage and hazardous wastes: an overview. *Trends Organ Crim* 13, Pp134–146 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-009-9089-6>

22 This is also the terminology used by ICCS

23 Cesi, B., D’Amato, A., & Zoli, M. (2019). Corruption in environmental policy: the case of waste. *Economia Politica*, 36(1), pp 65–78.

Box 6

Waste management and corruption in the private sector

This case depicts how corruption can increase operational costs in waste management.

A case of unlawful disposal of oil pellets in Germany between 2009 and 2013 led to several convictions for unauthorized waste management, bribery, fraud, embezzlement and tax evasion. The main offender had several companies that disposed of waste for another company. In order to secure more jobs from this company, the offender – together with another accused - bribed an employee of this firm. The bribes were financed through overpriced invoicing. Several smaller intermediary companies controlled by the offender were set up to hide the significantly lower prices being charged for waste dumping. The criminal proceedings related to the corruption offences led to the charge of unlawful disposal of oil pellets against the main offender. The involved persons received custodial sentences from two years to three years and nine months. Assets of about €1.2 million were seized.

Source:

Germany's response to UNODC Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment (2021).

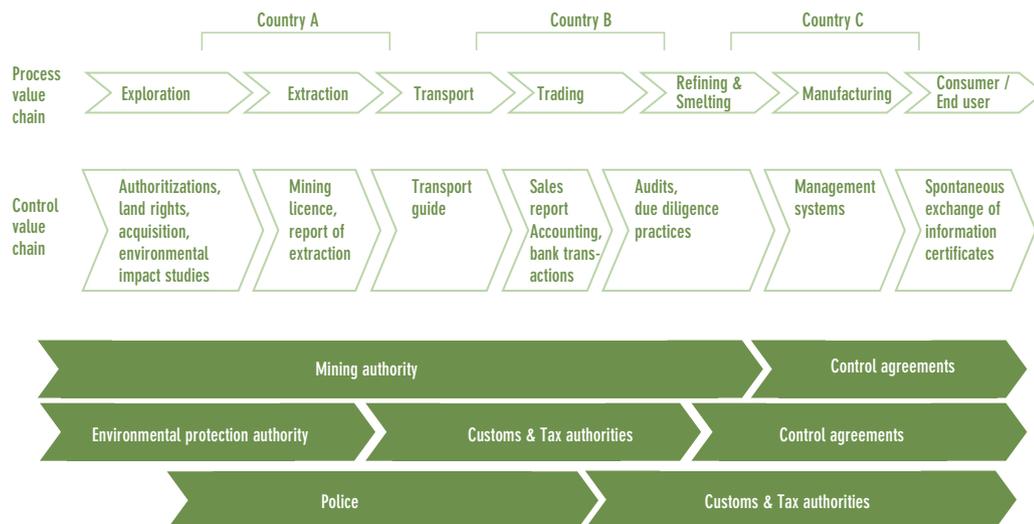
In responses to the questionnaire, 12 adjudicated crimes linked to waste trafficking and related offences, such as soil degradation, were reported. Many cases of illegal waste activity and pollution overlapped, with illegal waste activity resulting in pollution. The reported cases involved bribery, embezzlement or abuse of function and included public officials failing to execute duties to prevent soil degradation; unlawful disposal of waste, such as oil pellets, mercury, and construction materials; and, corrupt public procurement procedures. Approximately half of the cases cited the involvement of waste management companies in corrupt acts, including bribery to obtain permits, prevent intervention and continue the illegal activity. In the description of cases detected, one States party noted that companies use “unauthorized commercial agreements that provide kick-back payments for alleged brokering or advisory services using letterbox companies in [country] and abroad”. In another case, state employees issued waste disposal permits in exchange for €470,000 in bribes. The third case involved the illegal shipment of mercury from Europe to non-EU countries with criminal offences for fraud and embezzlement.

3.5 Corruption as it relates to illegal mining

Illegal mining constitutes a multi-billion-dollar transnational criminal industry with lasting social, economic and environmental consequences. Corruption may enable this unlawful activity throughout the value chains as, at each step, there are interactions with a set of public authorities, including mining and land authorities, environmental protection bodies, regulatory agencies, inspectors and auditors as well as customs and tax authorities. Each of these interactions can give rise to unique corruption risks. Value chains for natural resources that can be mined are often complex and fragmented and can include many tiers between extraction and end-users. The gold value chain model in Figure 5 is presented as an example. It is important to note that the value chain (or order of events in a value chain) will vary country by country and according to the natural resource exploited.

In responses to the questionnaire, six adjudicated crimes linked to illegal mining, corruption and money-laundering were reported. They were primarily related to abuse of function. For example, corruption facilitated operations in one of the reported cases: the director of a national park extracted and sold sand from a protected park without registration or permit. In another case, corruption enabled criminals to hide from authorities: police officers sold confidential information about operations against illegal mining activities. Similarly, a government official in another States party tipped off a mining company about an upcoming inspection. This case also involved false consignment notes, unlicensed use of mineral resources, and money-laundering.

Figure 5
Generic gold value chain



Source: UNODC

Box 7

International laundering of metals

The below case demonstrates where corruption and money-laundering can occur during mining and trade.

Illegal gold mining is associated with serious environmental harms, including deforestation, threats to biodiversity, and heavy metal contamination. Traders can hide illegally sourced gold from law enforcement through falsified documents, shell companies and shipments passing through third-party countries.

Due to the high risk of money-laundering, the United States Bank Securities Act requires precious metal dealers to establish anti-money-laundering programmes. A USA-based gold refinery purchased and refined gold from Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe but failed to develop and implement a “reasonably designed” anti-money-laundering programme. Open-source and publicly available information flagged countries where gold is likely to be criminally sourced, smuggled across borders, or traded through front companies. However, the company did not request or obtain adequate information on the origin of accepted gold, nor on their buyers or suppliers.

The case was part of an inter-agency Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Internal Revenue Services- Criminal Investigations (IRS-CI).

The refinery pleaded guilty of failure to maintain an anti-money laundering programme in March 2018. In the terms of the Plea and Forfeiture Agreement, they forfeited \$15,000,000, are prohibited from purchasing precious metals from outside the country for a five-year term probation and agreed to develop and maintain an effective compliance and ethics programme. In a related case, three employees pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money-laundering for wiring billions of dollars from the United States of America to Latin America and the Caribbean to obtain gold connected to illegal mining, foreign bribery, smuggling, and narcotics trafficking.

Sources:

USA response to UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

U.S. v. Barrage, et al., Case No. 17- 20215-CR-SCOLA.

U.S. v. Elemetal LLC, Case No. 18-20173-CR-MORENO.

U.S. DOJ (2018). U.S. Gold refinery pleads guilty to charge of failure to maintain adequate anti-money laundering-programme, US Attorney’s Office South District of Florida. March 16, 2018. Available: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/us-gold-refinery-pleads-guilty-charge-failure-maintain-adequate-anti-money-laundering>.

Box 8**Issuing of unlawful permits**

This case shows how corruption leads to laws and regulations established to protect the environment being overlooked or ignored. Authorities recognize that bringing this type of cases to court is burdensome.

A governor of a sub-province issued mining permits without following the national procedure that requires the national mineral resources and oil agency to approve the issuance of permits by governors. In exchange for bribes, the governor abused his power to issue permits for 88 micro mining companies. The permits covered a total of 197.28 hectares of land. As permits were issued ignoring national procedures that aim to limit environmental damage, many of the activities conducted by the 88 companies harmed the natural environment. Law enforcement officials required extended time, resources and effort to investigate and bring the case to court. The court fined the governor.

Source:

Mongolia's response to UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

3.6 Corruption as it relates to other crimes that have an impact on the environment

In addition to the above-listed crimes, crimes such as air, water or soil pollution or degradation, and illegal trade of hydrofluorocarbons or smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) negatively impact the environment and could be facilitated by corruption. During the research undertaken for this report, no literature directly addressing this link could be found. However, States parties did report seven adjudicated cases of corruption related to pollution in their responses to the questionnaire. Of these seven cases, three are included above in the discussion on waste disposal, as they cover both types of crimes. The remaining four cases include soil contamination and burning of materials resulting in soil and air pollution. In one case, a public official failed to execute his duties to prevent soil degradation. Box 9 demonstrates how bribery can occur even during an environmental remediation phase.

Box 9

Environmental remediation (pollution)

In this case, a company acting on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States of America received kickbacks from a subcontractor to win contaminated soil remediation contracts. The conspiracy dates back to 2001–2004, but one of the defendants was not sentenced until 2016, demonstrating how long it can take for such cases to go through the judicial process.

The founder of an environmental company paid bribes to win government funded contracts to remediate contaminated soil and inflated the prices charged to the EPA. Between 2001–2004, the defendant and his associates conspired and agreed to defraud the EPA and provide kickbacks by including them in the contract price. Bribes were provided to influence contracts awarded for contaminated soil treatment, removal, and disposal. In exchange, the defendant was given insider information on other bids to allow him to outbid competitors and received \$43,000,000 in fraudulently awarded contracts. Bribes, wire transferred through shell companies, totalled approximately \$1,100,000 in addition to travel expenses for Mediterranean and Caribbean cruises, pharmaceuticals, wine, entertainment, and electronics such as laptops. For example, the defendant and co-conspirators submitted a fraudulent invoice for soil disposal at a secure facility, but the soil was instead sent to un-secured facilities. Money was wire-transferred from bank accounts in Canada to New Jersey.

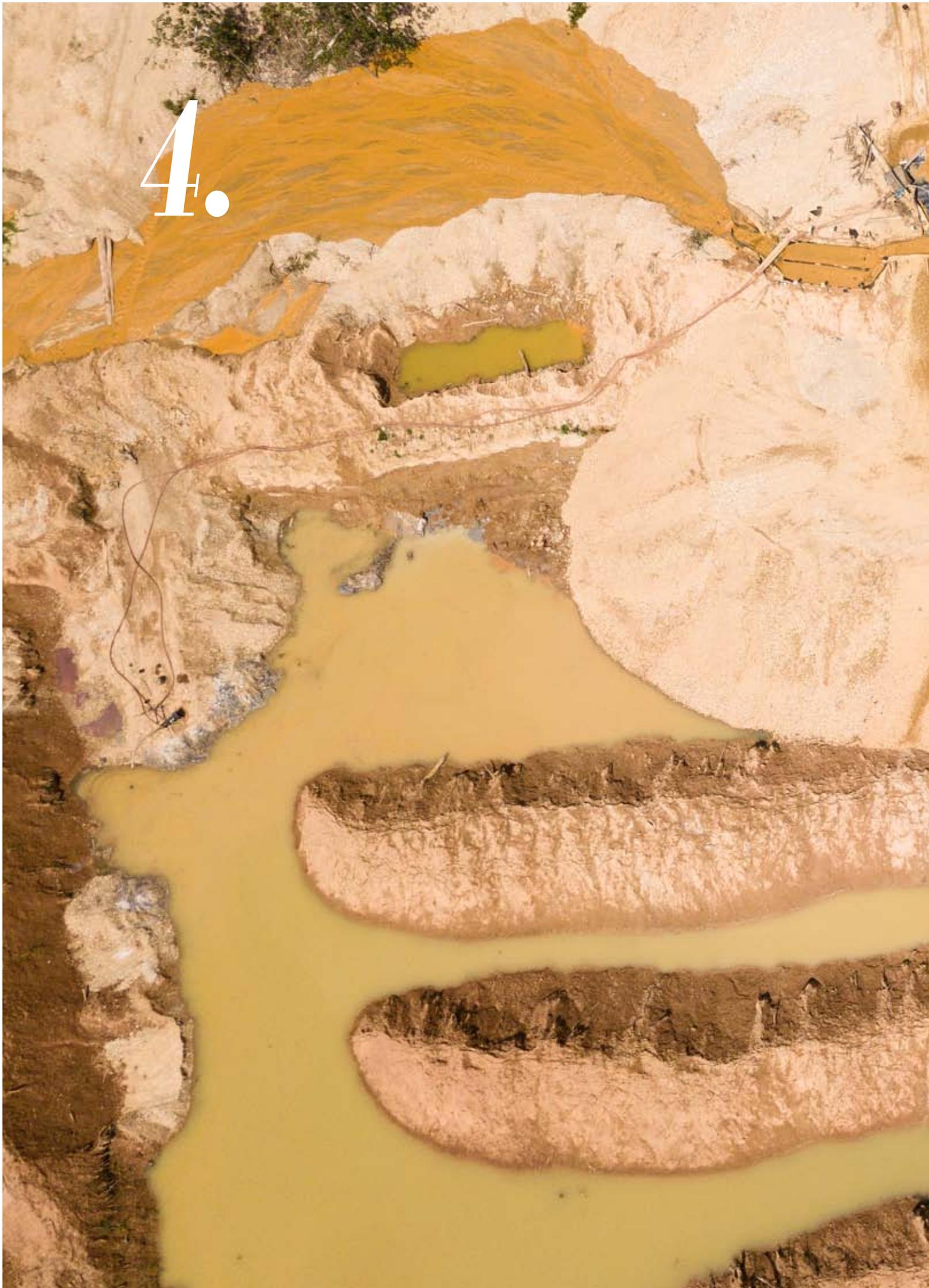
The full investigation resulted in ten individuals and three companies being charged with fraud, tax fraud, money-laundering and obstruction of justice, more than \$6 million in restitution and prison sentences from five months to 14 years.

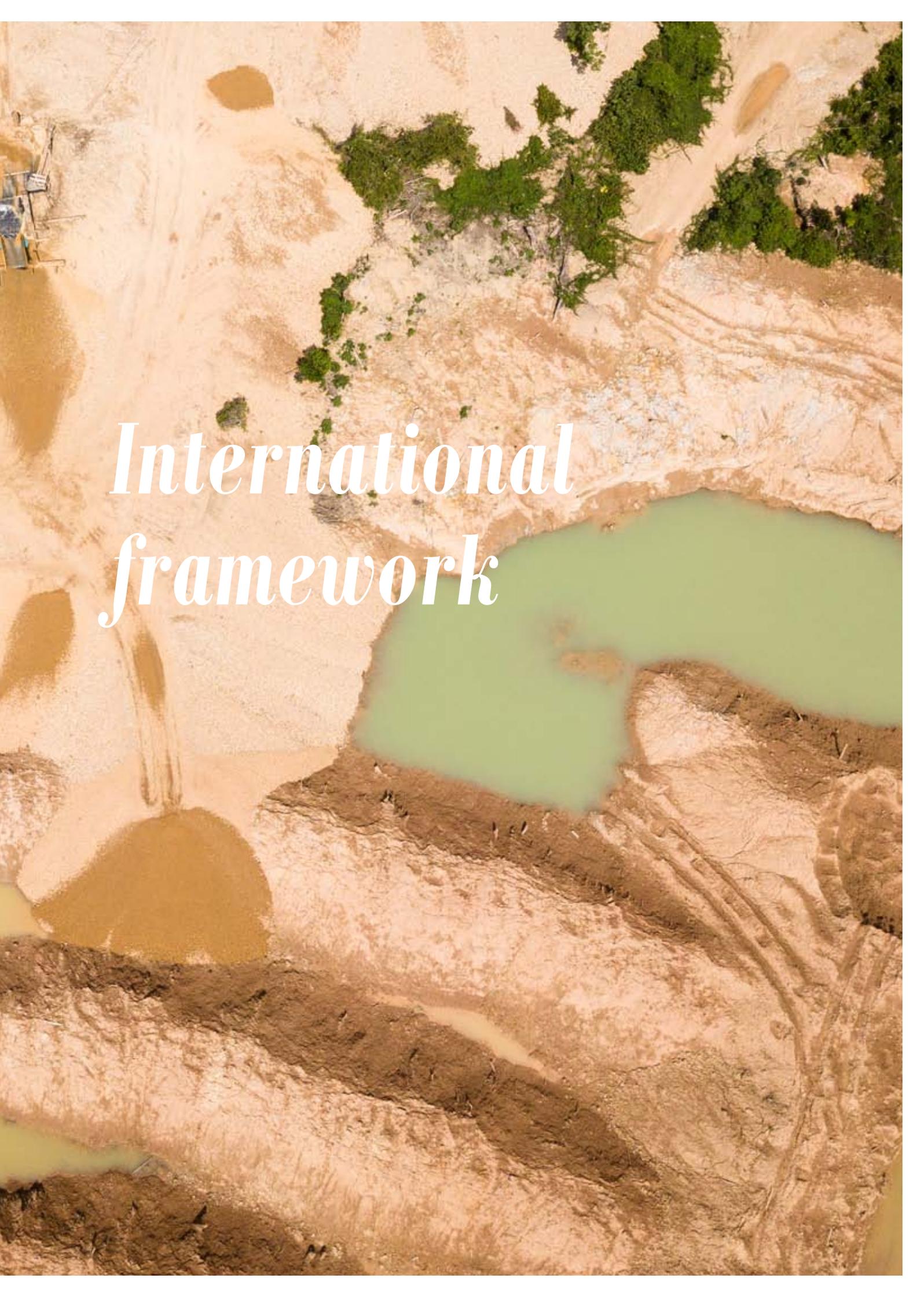
Sources:

U.S. v. Robert P. Griffiths Criminal No 09-506 Case 2:09-cr-00506-JAG [2009-07-06].

DOJ Press Release (2016). Former CEO of Canadian Hazardous Waste treatment company sentenced to serve 63 months in prison for role in kickback and fraud schemes against the United States. Department of Justice 16-921. Available at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-ceo-canadian-hazardous-waste-treatment-company-sentenced-serve-63-months-prison-role>.

4.





International framework

There is a strong international framework in place to guide Member States and other actors such as IGOs, NGOs, the private sector and civil society in preventing and countering corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment.

In 2019, the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted resolution 8/12, entitled “Preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment”. In that resolution, the Conference urges States parties to take measures such as implementing provisions of the Convention, strengthening anti-corruption frameworks, and promoting transparency to prevent and combat corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Among other issues, the resolution encourages States parties to assess and mitigate corruption risks along the value chains of the wildlife, timber, and fisheries sectors, and calls on them to investigate and prosecute those crimes including by using financial investigation techniques.

Resolution 8/12 of the CoSP is part of an extended list of resolutions that call for the protection of the environment and highlight the importance of preventing and fighting corruption in order to do so. At its 75th session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted its fifth resolution²⁴ on tackling trafficking in wildlife. The resolution urges Member States to reinforce their efforts and adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment and urges Member States to take decisive steps to prevent, combat and eradicate illegal trade in wildlife on the supply, transit and demand sides. Recent resolutions further reaffirm concerns over the facilitating role of corruption and call upon Member States to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates these crimes by assessing and mitigating corruption risks, by strengthening capacity to investigate such corruption and by enhancing prosecutions. Other relevant resolutions are listed in Annex III.

Action against corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment contributes to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, target 15.7 “Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products”, target 16.5 to “Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms” and target 16.6 to “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

24 A/RES/75/311 Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife

Figure 6

Correlations with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Goal 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Target 15.7

Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products



Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Target 16.5

Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms



Target 16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels



Resolutions listed in Annex III incl. resolution 8/12
contributing to the SDGs

5.



A close-up photograph of a stack of logs, with the text overlaid in the center. The logs are stacked horizontally, and the text is written in a white, italicized serif font. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text and the texture of the wood.

*Measures taken to
address corruption
as related to
crimes that have
an impact on the
environment*

Several States parties, IGOs and civil society groups reported on steps taken to address corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. This chapter provides information on some of the steps taken to prevent, detect and prosecute this form of corruption.

5.1 National level

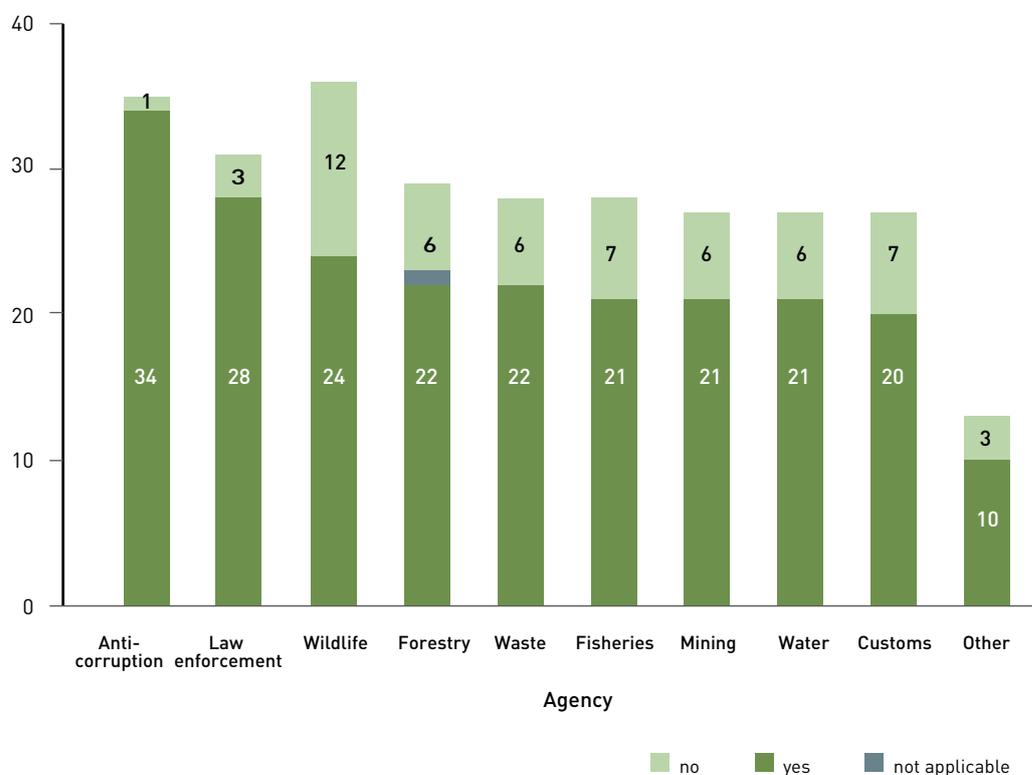
The information provided below is based on the analysis of responses to the *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment*. Questions were asked about prevention (e.g., agencies mandated to prevent corruption, preventive measures implemented) and criminalization and criminal justice activities (e.g., acts that constitute a criminal offence) that States parties had undertaken and associated challenges.

Given the limitations of the information provided by States parties as described above, this summary does not purport to comprehensively describe the measures taken to tackle corruption related to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Instead, the information aims to provide an understanding of some national-level measures, of challenges and good practices, and highlight key areas for further action and research.

5.1.1 Preventative measures

A broad range of agencies are mandated to prevent crimes that have an impact on the environment and, to comply with that mandate, some of them take actions to prevent corruption. Identifying these agencies provides a better understanding of the actors that can play a key preventing role. According to the results of the questionnaire, most responding States parties distribute this role among multiple agencies. The two main categories of agencies mandated with this task are anti-corruption and law enforcement (see Figure 7).

Figure 7
Number of States parties that reported agencies (and types of agencies) mandated to prevent corruption related to acts against the natural environment

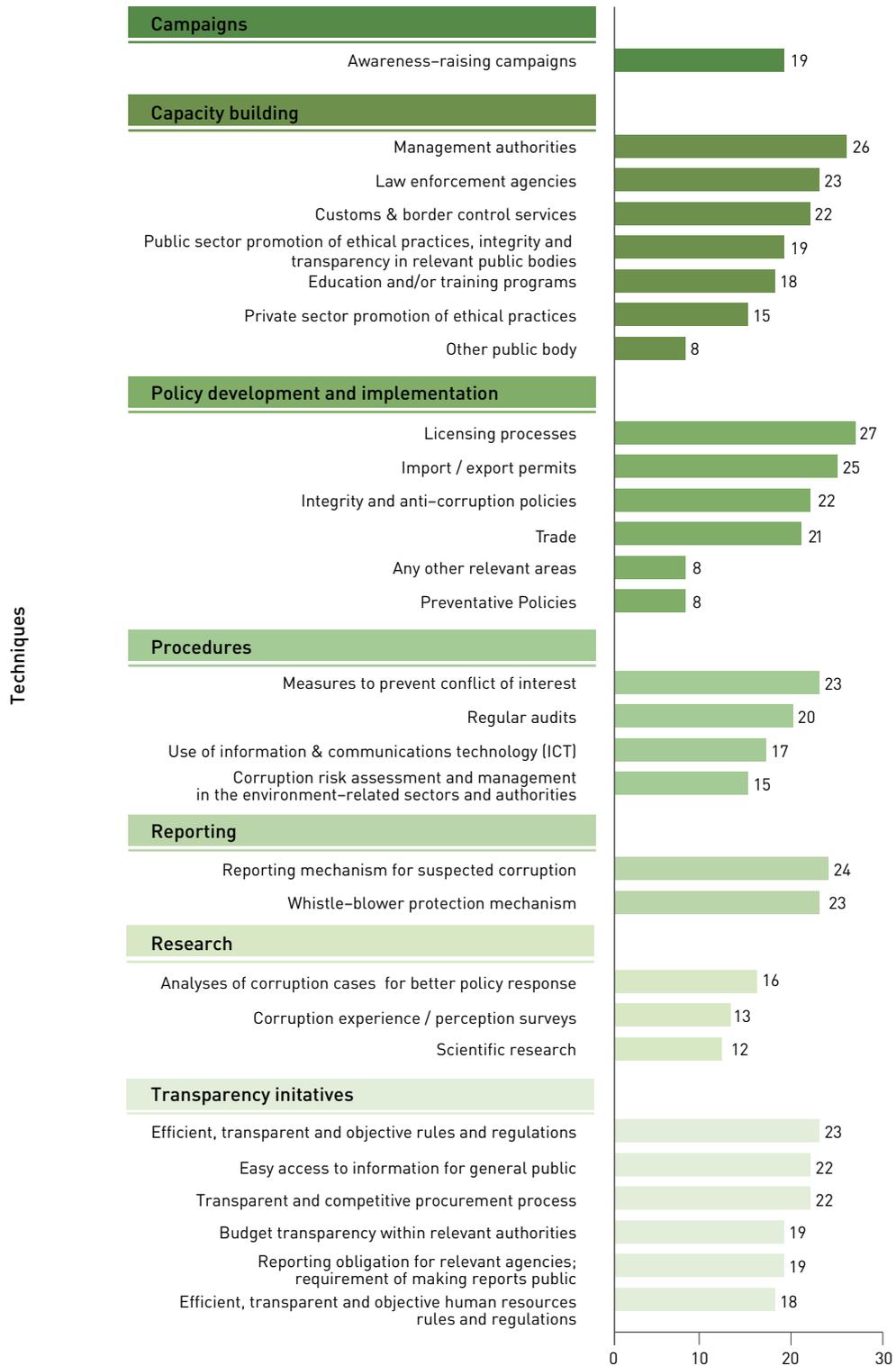


Note: Yes = agency mandated, no = agency not mandated. Forestry was not applicable in one States party because they do not have forests. Number of States parties that responded to the question =39.
 Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

In their responses to the questionnaire, States parties have reported a wide range of actions consistent with paragraphs 6 and 7 of resolution 8/12. Such measures can be grouped in seven broad categories, as follows: campaigns; capacity-building; transparency initiatives; policy development and implementation; procedures; reporting; and research. The most commonly reported measures relate to transparency initiatives, the development and implementation of policies, and capacity-building. Figure 8 provides the complete breakdown of the preventive measures reported.

Figure 8

Number of States parties that implemented measures to prevent corruption as it relates to acts against the natural environment



Note: Number of States parties that responded to the question = 34.

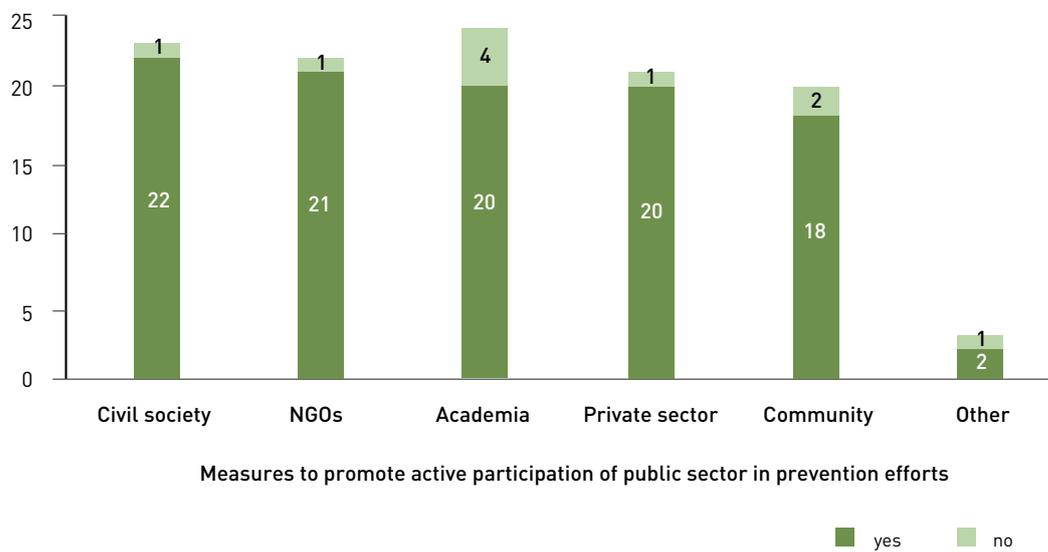
Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

Paragraph 8 of resolution 8/12 highlights the importance for States parties to strengthen the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector in efforts to prevent corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Over half of the reporting States parties indicated that they had implemented measures to that end (see Figure 9).

Some States parties provided additional information on how they promote the active participation of groups and individuals outside the public sector, these being: i) Civil society (e.g., conduct public engagement campaigns; support community monitoring and reporting systems; inform and develop policy to tackle environmental issues and identify corruption; and conduct seminars); ii) Private sector (e.g., train and work together with veterinarians in private clinics; engage with ground water user networks); iii) Academia (e.g., finance research on environmental protection); iv) NGOs (e.g., promotion of awareness-raising initiatives against wildlife crime); v) Other (e.g., one States party described how its Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment engages with public forums and events to promote compliance with national environmental laws).

Figure 9

Number of States parties that reported measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside of the public sector in preventive efforts



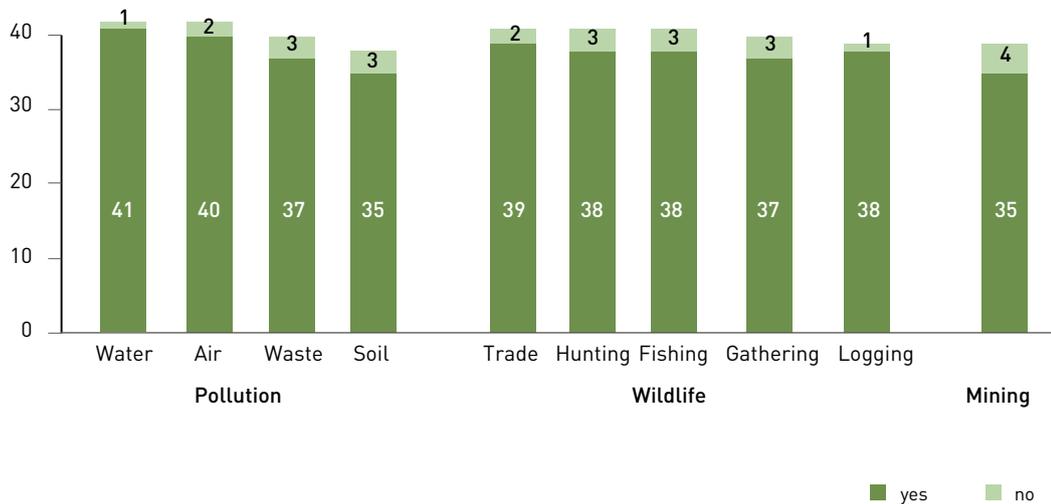
Note: Yes = measures in place, no= measures not in place. Number of States parties that responded to the question = 27.
 Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

5.1.2 Criminalization and criminal justice responses

Paragraph 11 of resolution 8/12 urges States parties to investigate and prosecute corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. In response to the questionnaire, 43 States parties indicated that their legislation had criminalized such acts as the pollution of air, water and soil; illegal moving or dumping of waste; illegal fishing and logging; illegal wildlife hunting, gathering or trade; and illegal mining. As depicted in Figure 10 in light green, some States parties reported that some of these acts had not been recognized as criminal offences under their legislation.

Figure 10

Number of States parties that have acts associated with pollution, wildlife, and mining that constitute a criminal offence



Note: Yes = Act constitutes a criminal offence, no=act is not a criminal offence. Number of States parties that responded to the question = 43.

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

To promote a comprehensive approach to addressing corruption as it links to crimes that have an impact on the environment, many States parties also recognize the liability of legal persons. Data from the questionnaire shows that more than one third of responding States parties established the criminal, civil and administrative liability of legal persons for participation in corruption offences related to crimes that have an impact on the environment, while more than 30 per cent have established criminal liability only (see Table 1).

Table 1

Per cent of responding States parties that have established the liability of legal persons

Legal liability of legal persons			Reporting States parties (in per cent)
criminal	civil	administrative	
✓	✓	✓	34
✓	✗	✗	31
✗	✓	✓	13
✓	✗	✓	6
✓	✓	✗	6
✗	✗	✗	9

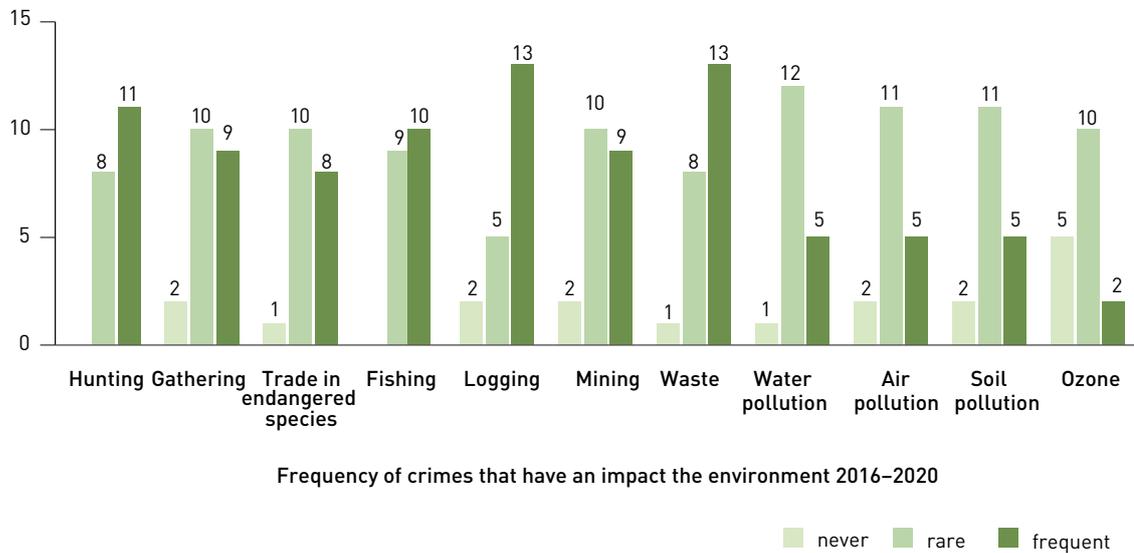
Note: Number of States parties that responded to the question = 32.

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (May–July 2021).

The link between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment is not yet adequately understood and addressed in several jurisdictions. To provide an overview of possible entry points for effective action, Figure 11 depicts the information reported through the questionnaire regarding the frequency of occurrence of crimes that have an impact on the environment in the period 2016–2020. Illegal activities related to waste and logging are the most frequent, followed by illegal hunting, fishing and mining.

Figure 11

Assessment of the frequency of crimes that have an impact on the environment



Note: Number of States parties that responded to the question = 26.

Source: Qualitative assessment of frequency of crimes against the environment expressed by relevant national authorities in their response to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

To date, there have been very few convictions for corruption linked to crimes that have an impact on the environment. In their replies, only 18 States parties reported adjudicated cases of corruption related to these crimes (a total of 57 example cases). The most reported cases are linked to wildlife crime, forest loss, and waste trafficking, as presented in Table 2. In addition, seven States parties reported 13 cases of money-laundering and financial crimes in the areas of wildlife crime, waste and mining. Details of these cases are presented in Chapter 3 of this report.

Some States parties indicated that they faced difficulties in reporting data on the cases mainly due to the format of their databases, which may store information on corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment in a separate location. Some States parties also reported that information on such cases was unavailable.

Table 2

Reported adjudicated cases of corruption, money-laundering and financial crimes related to crimes that have an impact on the environment

	Corruption		Financial crimes	
	# State parties	# Total cases	# State parties	# Total cases
Wildlife crime	6	15	2	5
Forest loss	5	15	1	1
Fisheries crime	3	4	0	0
Waste trafficking and related offences	9	12	1	1
Pollution	4	7	0	0
Illegal mining	5	6	3	3
Smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (ODS)	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1*	2	3
Total	18	57	7	13

Note: Some cases were reported as both corruption and money-laundering or fell under more than one crime type. When this occurred, cases were included in all of the relevant categories.

* Case connected to the operation of illegal wells, in relation to livestock, farmers, and local authorities.

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

5.2 International level

5.2.1 The work of UNODC to address corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment

Paragraphs 13, 19 and 21 of resolution 8/12 request UNODC to continue providing States parties with support and technical assistance, as well as to conduct research and studies for preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. UNODC has mainly supported States parties in the following three areas:

Facilitation of corruption risk assessment and management in wildlife, forest and fisheries management institutions *(as per paragraphs 4, 6 and 15 of resolution 8/12)*

The World Wildlife Crime Report issued by UNODC in 2020 observed that addressing corruption is fundamental to preventing wildlife crime. Accordingly, UNODC has been supporting corruption risk assessment and management in national wildlife, forestry and fisheries institutions and assisting them in strengthening their anti-corruption frameworks.

The corruption risk management methodology used by UNODC takes into account existing standards and methodologies, such as the International Standards Organization (ISO)31000, Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines. The methodology, however, is tailored to respond to the needs and realities of the public sector. The goal of the process is to produce a realistic list of corruption risks specific to the organization, and to develop practical risk mitigation measures tailored to the specific context and resources. This process also aims to gradually strengthen institutional capacity to identify and prevent corruption risks so that it becomes an ongoing and iterative exercise.

The UNODC publications *Rotten Fish: A guide on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector* and *Scaling Back Corruption: A guide on addressing corruption for wildlife management authorities*, and the upcoming *Rooting out Corruption: An introduction to the corruption that fuels forest loss*, detail the corruption risk management methodology fostered by UNODC in each of these sectors.

To date, UNODC has supported corruption risk management in over 20 organizations dealing with wildlife, fisheries and forestry in 15 States parties. These are Bolivia, Botswana (see Box 10 for more details), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Greece, Kenya (see Box 11 for more details), Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. A number of other States parties are in discussions with UNODC about undertaking corruption risk assessments.

In addition to supporting corruption risk assessments, UNODC assists in the implementation of the identified risk mitigation strategies, as requested by the concerned institutions. Those strategies may include the following measures:

- The establishment or strengthening of corruption prevention committees in wildlife, forest and fisheries management institutions;
- The development of codes of conduct;
- The implementation of mechanisms for complaint intake and whistle-blowing;
- Enhanced transparency of procurement systems and processes;
- Increased transparency of procedures, including those dealing with eligibility criteria, fees and systems related to permits and licenses;
- Increased compilation and analysis of information to combat poaching;
- Preparation, dissemination and analyses of surveys covering various topics, such as staff morale, and the experience of corruption.

Box 10

Implementation of the corruption risk management process in Botswana

Following an organization-wide corruption risk assessment exercise, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) undertook a corruption risk assessment focused on its operational sections (procurement, finance, human resources, asset management and transportation). Following this, some of the corruption mitigation initiatives implemented were the development and dissemination of new guidelines and operating procedures; strengthening of collaboration with the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) through a joint workplan; support to DWNP's revenue management system, including the development of a revenue prediction model and strengthening of the licenses and reservation processes to promote transparency and deter subversion; and undertaking of a staff morale survey to improve communication among leadership, supervisors and employees.

Box 11

Outcomes of the corruption risk management process within Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

The KWS Corruption Prevention Committee led the implementation of corruption risk mitigation strategies identified during the assessment process supported by UNODC. Achievements include the development of a KWS Code of Conduct and Corruption Prevention Policy; undertaking of a KWS service-wide survey on experiences of corruption to prevent future occurrences and to better target future anti-corruption interventions; development of an internal complaints management mechanism; survey of KWS staff wellbeing including substance abuse, which was identified as a potential corruption risk; provision of IT equipment to support record- and knowledge-management systems; updating policies and procedures on aquatic and marine resource management; review of parks and land management policy and procedures; strengthening the Coast Conservation Area's Corruption Prevention Committee (CPC), and piloting the whistle-blowing and complaints management mechanism within the regional CPC and the HQ CPC.

Strengthening of financial investigations related to wildlife and forest crimes and crimes in the fisheries sector *(as per paragraphs 4, 10 and 11 of resolution 8/12)*

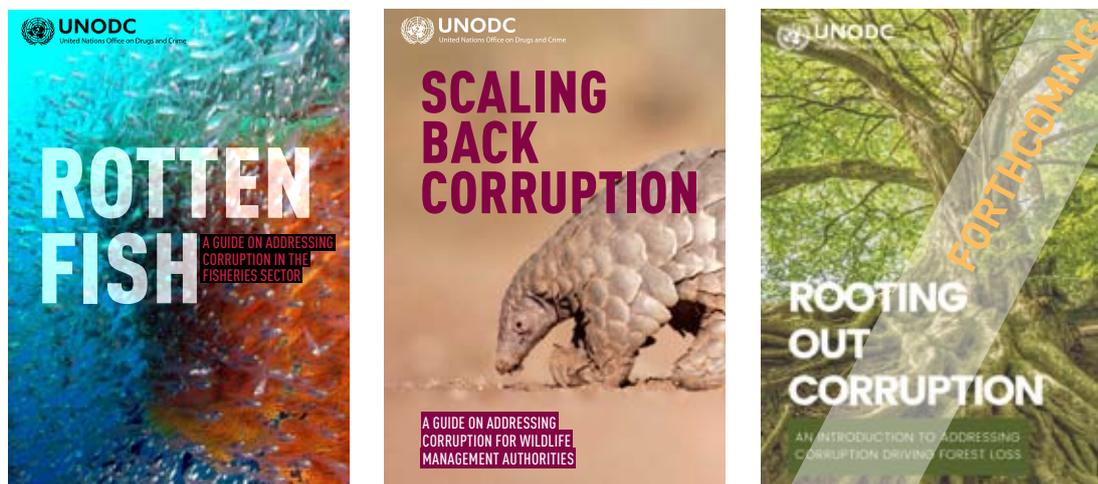
In recent years, there has been a growing realization that the understanding of the financial flows and the payment mechanisms behind crimes that impact the environment is limited. Likewise, financial investigations related to crimes that have an impact on the environment are infrequent. Despite increasing seizures of wildlife and forest products, illegally traded minerals, illegally obtained fish, as well as increased efforts to ensure criminal investigations, the lack of proper financial investigations can lead to the prosecution of low-level criminals while leaving the main financial beneficiaries of crime unpunished. In response to this challenge, UNODC has assisted Member States to identify cases where financial investigations should be undertaken and has provided mentorship for investigators to familiarize themselves with financial investigation techniques. UNODC has provided mentorship to law enforcement agencies in Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru and Uganda. Furthermore, training and workshops to present financial investigation techniques were held in preparation for mentorship activities in other States parties, including Botswana, China, Kenya, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Additionally, as urged by paragraph 10 of resolution 8/12, UNODC is collaborating with States parties to strengthen national and international cooperation in criminal matters by facilitating expert-level dialogues for interested parties in order to advance investigations. For example, UNODC has supported the establishment of multi-agency units in Kenya and Uganda to foster increased cross sectoral coordination. The Office has further supported the establishment of

public-private partnerships to ensure a comprehensive approach to financial investigations in Botswana and Namibia. In addition, UNODC has strengthened capacities to effectively request mutual legal assistance (MLA) and has facilitated the exchange of contacts between national authorities in several States parties.

Development of knowledge products *(as per paragraphs 14, 16 and 17 of resolution 8/12)*

UNODC has developed several knowledge products that are aimed at facilitating the prevention of corruption in the organizations entrusted with the protection of the environment and natural resources. Among these products are a series of guides on the management of corruption-related risks involving wildlife²⁵ (available in English and French) and fisheries²⁶ (available in English, French, and Spanish) authorities. An introduction to addressing corruption that drives forest loss will be published in 2022. Additionally, e-learning tools based on the fisheries and forestry guides are under development.



UNODC has also developed an online resource that provides information on existing sanctions that may be applied to wildlife and forest crime. In addition, it has published a guide entitled *Wildlife Crime: Key Actors, Organizational Structures and Business Models*, which describes the different roles along the wildlife crime supply chain and examines the most common business models used by organized criminal groups. These resources have been available since December 2021.

In the questionnaire, the majority of the reporting States parties expressed an interest in further knowledge products on corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. The States parties were especially interested in corruption that affects the mining and waste management sectors. See Table 3 for further details.

25 UNODC (2020) *Scaling Back Corruption: A guide on addressing corruption for wildlife management authorities*. Vienna. Available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/19-08373_Scaling_Back_Corruption_ebook.pdf

26 UNODC (2019). *Rotten Fish: A guide on addressing corruption in the fisheries sector*. Vienna. Available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/Rotten_Fish.pdf

Table 3

Suggestions for the development of new knowledge products

	yes	no	Additional information provided
Waste management	16	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Waste management is one of the biggest problems – improper waste management and document accounting.” “The correct and true treatment of waste in a timely and controlled manner, rather than benefiting the companies, would benefit the whole community, especially the settlements or communities near the waste management site.”
Mining management	13	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “It is important to develop knowledge products in the management of mining and precious metals in order to consolidate real control over this activity and prevent it from becoming corrupt due to the economic power it wields.”
Water management	8	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “This would benefit [country] and the mandated authority the most.”
Other sectors	7	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution Wildlife protection Conservation of biodiversity “Having intelligence in all these areas is of crucial importance, given the international implications of the crimes under investigation and the possible connection with acts of corruption.”

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

5.2.2 Other intergovernmental bodies that address corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) is a partnership between the CITES Secretariat, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNODC, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization. The collaborative effort of these five partners has translated into integrated support for wildlife and forestry management authorities through joint training and knowledge products.

The **CITES Secretariat** supports efforts to combat corruption by working with CITES parties and relevant partners to promote the implementation of CITES resolution 17.6 on prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in

violation of the Convention.²⁷ At the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties, the CITES Secretariat reports on matters related to corruption, bringing issues of concern and key initiatives, efforts, tools and services to combat corruption to the attention of parties.²⁸ At its eighteenth meeting, the Conference of Parties adopted decisions 18.77 and 18.78. In these decisions, the Conference encouraged parties to actively pursue and promote the use of the UNODC integrity guide for wildlife management authorities to strengthen responses to and overcome the challenges posed by corruption. It also invited the CITES Secretariat to work with UNODC and other ICCWC partner organizations to promote the use of the guide and to support parties, upon request, in implementing activities and measures to address the risks and challenges posed by corruption.²⁹

The Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership published the report *Financial Investigations into Wildlife Crime* in January 2021. The report provides financial intelligence units and relevant stakeholders with detailed guidance on how financial intelligence units can support investigations related to wildlife crime.

5.2.3 The role of civil society in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in its resolution 8/12, paragraph 8, recognizes the vital role that civil society, the private sector, academia, NGOs and community-based organizations play in the prevention of corruption and in raising awareness of the topics at hand. Several organizations have drawn attention to the link between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment and have partnered with UNODC in taking effective actions.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of initiatives taken by global actors that have cooperated with UNODC in different ways.

The **Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)** undertakes research and investigations to uncover crimes that have an impact on the environment. This work has led to the exposure of corrupt schemes that facilitate these crimes and has increased awareness of the importance of tackling corruption as an enabler of environmental crimes. EIA has published a report on the subject entitled *Rotten to the Core – How to tackle the corrupt networks facilitating wildlife and forest crime*.³⁰

27 Conf. 17.6 Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention. Available at https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-17-06_0.pdf.

28 CITES. Report of the Secretariat SC70 Doc.30.1. Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018 and CITES. CoP18 Doc. 32. Enforcement Matters.

29 Decision 18.77-18.80 CITES CoP18, <https://cites.org/eng/dec/index.php/42042>.

30 Environmental Investigation Agency (2021). *Rotten to the Core: How to tackle the corrupt networks facilitating wildlife and forest crime*. Available at <https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/EIA-Report-Rotten-to-the-Core-SPREADS.pdf>.

United for Wildlife, as part of the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, is aimed at making it impossible for traffickers to transport, finance or profit from illegal wildlife products. By working collaboratively with the transport and finance sectors, building key partnerships with NGOs and sharing information and good practices with these sectors, United for Wildlife is working to disrupt criminal networks. Through its Transport and Finance Taskforces, which include nearly 250 global organizations, United for Wildlife has supported 241 law enforcement investigations, 138 interdictions and seizures and 97 arrests, and has trained 84,000 personnel around the world.

TRAFFIC published *Case Digest: An Initial Analysis of the Financial Flows and Payment Mechanisms Behind Wildlife and Forest Crime*³¹ in March 2021 aimed at increasing knowledge of financial flows related to wildlife and forest crime. The report includes cases of wildlife and forest crimes and related financial investigations. It analyses patterns and trends and provides recommendations for practitioners. TRAFFIC also offers an online course on anti-corruption and natural resource management for conservation and natural resource management practitioners.³²

The **U4 Anti-Corruption Research Centre** provides insights into corruption as it relates to environmental crime, an analysis of corruption in the fisheries sector in East Africa³³ and country case studies. U4 has also developed a four-week expert-led course on corruption in the natural resources sector (forest, wildlife and extractive industries), which is open to its partners and invited guests.

The **Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC)** conducts intelligence-led investigations to disrupt and help dismantle transnational criminal networks dealing in wildlife, timber and fish. Through its investigations, WJC documents the role played by corruption as one of the main drivers of this form of transnational crime. In the course of its work, WJC has found that some criminal networks only engage in illicit trade after corrupting relevant authorities and gaining sufficient reassurance of limited or no interdiction. It has also discovered that certain traffickers even include the cost of corruption in the price of their products.

The **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** is part of a consortium, together with the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, TRAFFIC and the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at George Mason University, which supports practitioners in addressing corruption in the wildlife, fisheries and forest sectors. It does this through the sharing of knowledge and evidence of the impact of corruption on conservation efforts and human rights. WWF is implementing six pilot projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to test anti-corruption approaches and has established four country-based Associate Awards³⁴ to assess and respond to corruption.

31 TRAFFIC (2020). Initial analysis of the financial flows and payment mechanisms behind wildlife and forest crime. Available at https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/13685/an_initial_analysis_of_the_financial_flows_and_payment_mechanisms_behind_wildlife_and_forest_crime_-_20210608.pdf.

32 TNRC Introduction to Anti-Corruption Online Course. Available at <https://www.traffic.org/tnrc-introduction-to-anti-corruption-online-course/>.

33 Corruption as a facilitator of illegal fishing: Insights from East Africa (2021). U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Chr. Michelsen Institute. U4 Issue 2021:7.

34 Associate Awards (under the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) project offer a unique opportunity to implement a variety of anti-corruption approaches tailored to specific contexts and natural resource management (NRM) challenges. AAs are stand-alone agreements between a USAID mission or operating unit and World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), separate from the Leader Award (LA).

6.



A photograph of a large, unmanaged waste dump. The foreground and middle ground are filled with a chaotic pile of trash, including plastic bags, crumpled paper, and other debris. In the background, a steep, brown earthen hillside is also covered with scattered waste. The sky is clear and blue. The word "Challenges" is written in a white, elegant, cursive font across the center of the image.

Challenges



The information and analysis contained in this report indicate that the measures taken by governments, IGOs and civil society organizations to prevent and combat corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment are limited in relation to the size of the challenge at hand. The responses of States parties to the questionnaire further indicate that governments face different challenges in the prevention, detection and prosecution of these crimes. Recognizing and understanding these challenges is critical for the establishment of baselines and for the adoption of appropriate measures.



The first obstacle to gaining a fuller understanding of these challenges is a lack of systematic data collection and analysis. Information on adjudicated cases of corruption related to crimes that have an impact on the environment is not systematically collected at the national level. Specialized research and academic literature are also limited. As mentioned above, even the most recent major studies on issues related to the environment and climate change do not include considerations related to corruption.

At the national level, although authorities mandated to manage natural resources may be aware of the role that corruption plays in enabling their criminal exploitation, many of them have not methodically assessed and addressed risks of corruption in their operations.

Figure 12 provides an overview of the reported challenges to both the prevention and prosecution of corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. Among these challenges is the complexity of such crimes and the difficulties faced in establishing links with corruption. These difficulties can be amplified by weak penalties for such crimes, especially in comparison to crimes such as the smuggling of firearms or narcotics. One States party described corruption cases related to illegal movements of waste as being “subject to complex legal, scientific and market-technical contexts”. Another States party referred to the complex licencing and permit processes as challenging to law enforcement activities.

Compounding these challenges is a lack of specialized knowledge. Law enforcement authorities require appropriate technical knowledge, skills and capacity to detect and investigate crimes that have an impact on the environment. Knowledge of environmental harm, illicit activities that can cause such harm and related legislation is necessary to determine if an investigation should be launched. Recognizing that multiple authorities are responsible for preventing, detecting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating crimes related to corruption and the environment, this specialized knowledge needs to cover the entire spectrum of the criminal justice system. States parties also reported that successful prosecutions require a high level of inter-agency coordination.

There is still limited understanding of the financial flows and the payment mechanisms behind crimes that have an impact on the environment, and limited use of financial investigations related to these crimes. Even countries with increasing numbers of convictions for crimes that have an impact on the environment reported low levels of parallel financial investigations. This may lead to impunity for the main financial beneficiaries of such crimes.

Another obstacle highlighted by States parties is citizens' fear of reporting corruption. This is consistent with reports from States parties of low numbers of investigations of illegal activities that have an impact on the environment because of limited reporting and untimely detection. As one States party stated: "The more time passes before the detection, the harder it is to investigate the case." However, States parties also indicated that citizens may not report such crimes, or that their detection may be delayed, because their environmental impact may not be immediately apparent.

Others reported challenges such as a lack of public awareness of the link between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment. The low priority that this topic often has on national agendas translates into insufficient funds and specialized human resources. Overlapping mandates and limited inter-agency coordination were reported as additional obstacles.

Finally, challenges remain with regard to effective international cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries of wildlife products.

Table 4

Challenges to the prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption reported by States parties

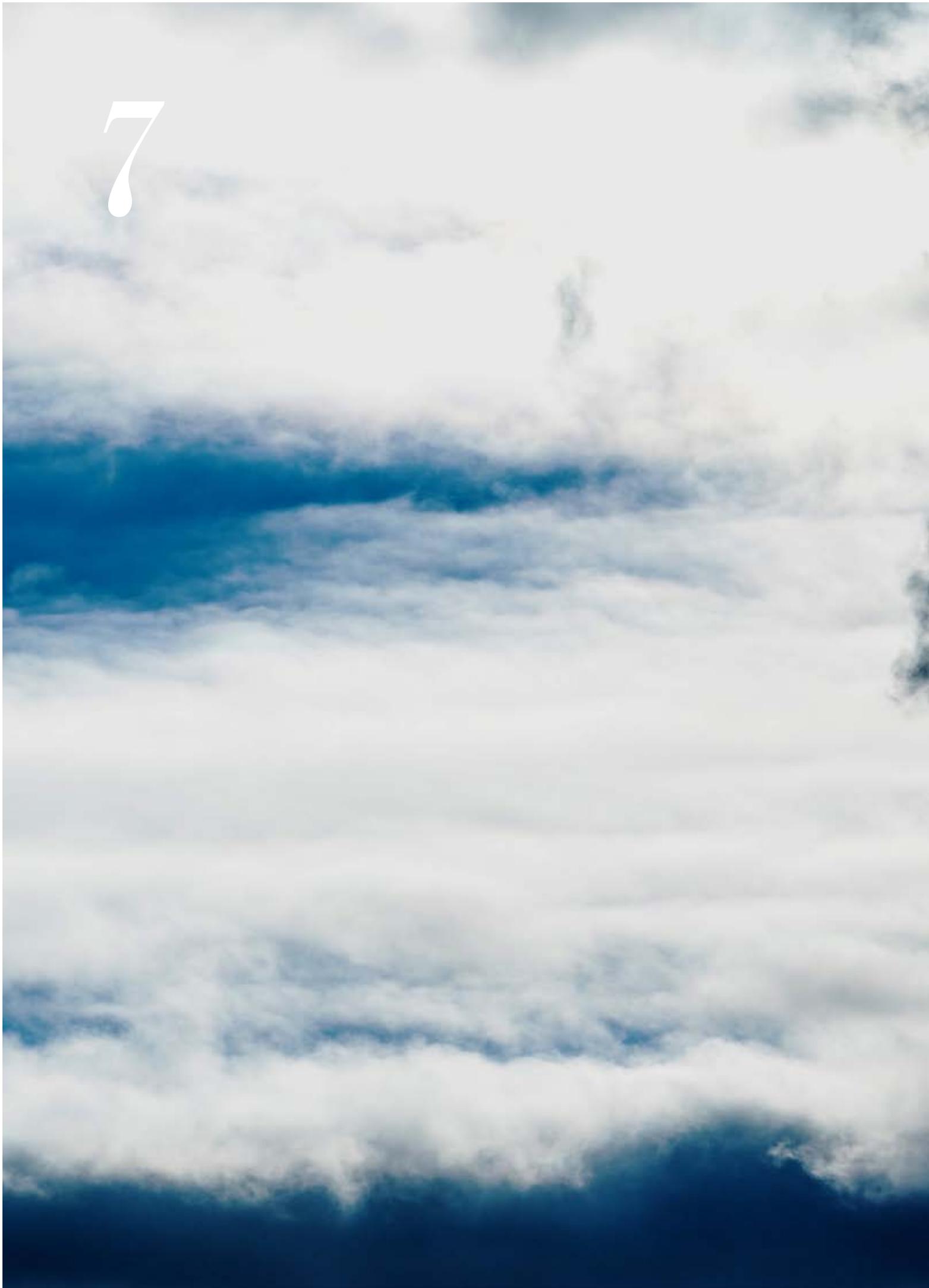
Prevention	Detection and prosecution
Complexity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complex licencing and permit processes ▪ Involvement of multiple agencies ▪ Absence of science-based arguments in decision-making ▪ Difficulty to place crimes that have an impact on the environment higher on the agenda ▪ Challenges in planning mining and management of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timely detection ▪ Complex legislation ▪ Complex and multifaceted scientific and technical contexts (e.g. those relating to environmental crimes that require specialized police services) ▪ Inadequate specialized knowledge ▪ Difficult to bring cases to court (e.g. few, if any, witnesses) ▪ Difficult to prove damages in court (e.g. economic costs of environmental harm) ▪ Cases are time consuming ▪ Lenient punishments
Awareness and reporting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of awareness ▪ Unwillingness or fear to report ▪ Lack of public support to monitor the sustainable use of resources ▪ Lack of transparency in processes and procedures (such as procurement processes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficult to detect (e.g. nature cannot report) ▪ Limited public reporting ▪ Inadequate reporting systems ▪ Law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities lack awareness of laws related to acts against the environment ▪ Lack of awareness of the seriousness of offences that impact the environment
Capacity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gaps in legal framework ▪ Insufficient human and technical capacity ▪ Limited financial resources and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited specialized training and expertise among law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities ▪ Limited human and technical capacity ▪ Lack of resources and procedures ▪ No guarantee of parallel investigations of economic and financial crimes ▪ High costs

Prevention	Detection and prosecution
Coordination	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of inter-agency coordination ▪ Lack of correlation between databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited coordination between responsible agencies (detection/ investigation and prosecution) ▪ Limited intelligence and information sharing between agencies ▪ Limited international cooperation ▪ Time-consuming international cooperation processes
Public service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low civil servant salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performance of law enforcement authorities is not assessed in relation to crimes that impact the environment ▪ Conflicts of interest

Note: Number of States parties that responded to the question on prevention = 23. Number of States parties that responded to the question on detection and prosecution = 27.

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).

7





*Conclusion and
recommendations*



The world is facing a triple crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.³⁵ Urgent action and political commitment are required if the global community is determined to protect the planet. Interventions need to be rooted in the understanding that corruption can facilitate crimes that have an impact on the environment and can undermine responses to these crimes. Only when corruption is addressed, equitable and sustainable access to natural resources can be ensured.



An important step in this endeavour is to prioritize data collection, analysis and the sharing of data. This will lay the foundations for a more comprehensive information management system and allow for better monitoring and analysis of, for instance, adjudicated cases of corruption, and trends and patterns of how corruption facilitates crimes that have an impact on the environment, both at the national and international levels. This information can feed into increased science-based research and better understanding of the forms, manifestations and scale of such corruption, which will, in turn, help inform more targeted responses. Respondents to the questionnaire have highlighted a lack of data collection and analysis as a recurring challenge and, as such, this sentiment reaffirms the request made in resolution 8/12 to engage in more science-based research on the topics identified within it.

Resolution 8/12 is to be read in conjunction with resolution 10/6 entitled “Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, which was adopted in 2020 by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocols Thereto. Both resolutions address many of the challenges and opportunities that emerged as priorities in the responses to the questionnaire. The COP affirmed in resolution 10/6 that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime constituted an effective tool and an essential part of the legal framework for preventing and combating transnational organized crimes that affect the environment and for strengthening international cooperation in that regard. It called upon States parties to the Convention to make crimes that affect the environment, in appropriate cases, serious crimes, in accordance with their national legislation, as defined in article 2, paragraph (b), of the Convention, in order to ensure that, where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group, effective international cooperation can be afforded under the Convention.

35 Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary General (September 2021). Available: https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf

Furthermore, these, and other complementary resolutions urge States parties to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption offences where they may be linked to crimes that have an impact on the environment, by assessing and mitigating corruption risks and strengthening preventive anti-corruption measures; by using financial investigation techniques, with a view to identifying, disrupting and dismantling the criminal groups involved; by taking measures to ensure that legal and natural persons are held accountable for their involvement in corruption offences and transnational organized crime; and by strengthening international cooperation.

Some of the following statements extracted from the responses to the questionnaire corroborate the above. One States party noted that “environmental crime needs to be viewed as a serious crime area, given higher priority and allocated appropriate monetary and human resources, especially when it contains cross-border elements.” Another States party described the need to “establish close cooperation between law enforcement authorities and environmental protection offices.”

Some States parties proposed possible ways forward, for example, through specialized training. One States party commented: “Have State investigation bodies specialized in the prosecution of environmental crimes, and their economic backgrounds, with professionals from different disciplines. Create courts with specific environmental and criminal environmental competence, which have their own security forces.” Another called for the implementation of “specialized courses for personnel involved in the defence, prevention, investigation and punishment of acts of corruption related to the environment.”

Progress is possible and necessary. Member States have showcased successes and good practices in preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment. However, a sufficient response to corruption and its devastating impact on our shared natural resources requires greater effort by States parties and all other relevant stakeholders, and the full implementation of resolution 8/12 and other complementary resolutions.

UNODC will continue to build on the information provided in the responses to the questionnaire and will continue its support to States parties in line with the mandates outlined in resolution 8/12 and other relevant resolutions, with this assistance focused on establishing integrated and multidisciplinary responses, enhancing inter-agency and international cooperation and promoting more targeted research in this field.

Figure 13 summarizes the key opportunities and potential solutions outlined by respondents to the questionnaire.

Table 5

Opportunities and potential solutions outlined by States parties

Prevention	Detection and prosecution
Regulation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clearly determine mandates ▪ Periodically review and update legislation ▪ Establish corruption prevention policies and practices and anti-corruption bodies in each of the involved institutions ▪ Regulate conflicts of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the complexity of legislation and simplify processes ▪ Harmonize definitions and standardize interpretations ▪ Criminalize specific actions that link corruption and crimes that affect the environment ▪ Introduce greater verification of the assets of public officials
Awareness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement education and awareness-raising campaigns to empower citizens and foster attitudes that are intolerant of corruption 	
Transparency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage company compliance programmes ▪ Promote external audits ▪ Foster the role of watchdogs ▪ Publicize activities of anti-corruption bodies ▪ Facilitate access to open data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor interactions between private and public sectors ▪ Publicize names of legal entities that comply with anti-corruption and environmental protection requirements
Reporting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use technology to build efficient reporting systems ▪ Build communication channels for community and media reporting ▪ Establish accessible whistle-blower reporting systems that encourage reporting of violations ▪ Provide rewards for reporting ▪ Encourage timely reaction to reports of corruption ▪ Implement channels for anonymous reporting ▪ Provide protection to informants 	

Prevention	Detection and prosecution
Capacity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritize corruption prevention ▪ Conduct corruption risk assessments ▪ Improve specialization of human resources and access to technical equipment ▪ Strengthen audit systems ▪ Adopt efficient and transparent human resource rules and regulations ▪ Enhance the electronic delivery of services (e.g. issuing of permits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have specialized investigative bodies, law enforcement and courts with accredited specialists ▪ Introduce investigations to address natural and legal persons' liability ▪ Investigate and collect, from the beginning, sufficient evidence regarding the economic trail or real economic interest behind illegal activities
Coordination	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen institutional cooperation through formal memoranda ▪ Build a multi-agency approach ▪ Promote academic research on the evaluation of environmental damage as State economic loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase coordination and cooperation between environmental agencies, customs, law enforcement and prosecutors ▪ Promote effective information sharing, especially with authorities tasked with addressing economic crimes ▪ Subscribe to agreements to enhance international intelligence exchange, mutual legal assistance and best-practice sharing
Public service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professionalize public servant positions ▪ Foster digital public service delivery (e.g. for permits and land-use rights) ▪ Monitor potential conflict-of-interest issues, especially in relation to the movement of public servants to the private sector ▪ Implement codes of conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase training on the links between corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment for investigators, prosecutors and judges ▪ Allocate appropriate monetary and human resources ▪ Improve standards for public service delivery
Penalties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider corruption and crimes that have an impact on the environment as serious crimes and prioritize addressing them ▪ Increase severity of penalties for crimes that have an impact on the environment ▪ Increase focus on general deterrence through court cases ▪ Make the public aware of penalties 	

Source: Responses to the UNODC *Questionnaire on experiences and good practices in addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment* (2021).



An underwater photograph showing a sea turtle swimming through a polluted ocean. The turtle's head and front flipper are visible in the lower half of the frame. The water is filled with various pieces of plastic waste, including several crumpled clear plastic bags and a bright green straw. There is also some brown seaweed or debris floating in the water. The overall scene is a stark contrast between nature and human-made trash.

Annexes

Annex I: Countries that responded to the questionnaire

Afghanistan	Albania	Argentina	Armenia	Australia
Austria	Azerbaijan	Belgium	Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria	Canada	China	Colombia	Croatia
Cuba	El Salvador	Georgia	Germany	Hungary
Indonesia	Ireland	Italy	Japan	Kenya
Latvia	Lithuania	Madagascar	Mexico	Mongolia
Morocco	Myanmar	Norway	Oman	Panama
Paraguay	Poland	Qatar	Romania	Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Slovakia	Spain	Switzerland
Thailand	Turkey	United States of America		

Annex II: International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: Acts that cause environmental harm

1001 Acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation Acts that result in the pollution of the natural environment. ^{A1}	+	Inclusions: Air, water, soil pollution; apply all inclusions listed in 10011–10019
	-	Exclusions: Pollution or degradation through the illegal movement or dumping of waste (1002); litter offences (0801); wilful destruction, damage, or defacement inflicted upon public or private property (0504)
10011 Acts that cause the pollution or degradation of air Acts that result in air pollution or degradation. ^{A2}	+	Inclusions: Air pollution
	-	Exclusions: Air pollution caused by illegal mining, illegal logging or other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources (1004); apply all exclusions listed in 1001
10012 Acts that cause the pollution or degradation of water Acts that result in water pollution or degradation. ^{A3}	+	Inclusions: Water pollution
	-	Exclusions: Water pollution caused by illegal mining, illegal logging or other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources (1004); water pollution or degradation through the illegal movement or dumping of waste (1002); apply all exclusions listed in 1001
10013 Acts that cause the pollution or degradation of soil Acts that result in soil pollution or degradation. ^{A4}	+	Inclusions: Soil pollution
	-	Exclusions: Soil pollution caused by illegal mining, illegal logging or other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources (1004); soil pollution or degradation through illegal movement or dumping of waste (1002); apply all exclusions listed in 1001
10019 Other acts that cause environmental pollution or degradation. Acts that result in the pollution of the natural environment not described or classified in categories 10011–10013. - Natural environment as defined in footnote A1.	+	Inclusions: Pollution through noise, vibrations, heat, light or radiation; dangerous, nuclear and chemical substance offences
	-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1001

A1 **Natural environment**, at minimum, is the environment that encompasses the interaction of all living species.

A2 **Air pollution** is the direct or indirect contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. (World Health Organization. Air Pollution. http://www.who.int/topics/air_pollution/en/index.html).

A3 **Water pollution** is the direct or indirect introduction of substances or energy into a body of water, water utilities or marine environment (including estuaries), resulting in harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrances to marine activities including fishing, impairment of the quality of sea water and reduction of amenities. (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Marine Pollution. <http://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=1596>).

A4 **Soil pollution**, at minimum, is the direct or indirect contamination of soil by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the soil.

<p>1002</p> <p>Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste</p> <p>Acts involving the illegal movement or dumping of waste.^{A5}</p>	<p>+ Inclusions: Illegal trafficking of waste; illegal movement of waste; illegal waste dumping; apply all inclusions listed in 10021–10022</p>
	<p>- Exclusions: Litter offences (0801)</p>
<p>10021</p> <p>Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste within national borders.</p> <p>Acts involving the illegal movement or dumping of waste whose inception, prevention and/or direct or indirect effects involve only one country.</p> <p>- Movement and dumping as defined in footnote A5</p>	<p>+ Inclusions: Illegal domestic waste dumping, illegal domestic movement or trafficking of waste</p>
	<p>- Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1002</p>
<p>10022</p> <p>Acts involving the movement or dumping of waste across national borders.</p> <p>Acts involving the illegal movement or dumping of waste whose inception, prevention and/or direct or indirect effects involve more than one country.</p> <p>- Movement and dumping as defined in footnote A5.</p>	<p>+ Inclusions: Cross-border trafficking in waste</p>
	<p>- Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1002</p>

A5 **Movement or dumping**, at minimum, is the unlawful collection, transport, recovery, disposal or shipment of waste that causes or is likely to cause serious injury to any person or substantial damage to the quality of air, soil or water, or to fauna or flora.

1003	Trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora Unlawful trade or possession of specimens of protected or prohibited wild fauna or flora species. ^{A6}	+	Inclusions: Trafficking in wildlife, unlawful trade or possession of wildlife; apply all inclusions listed in 10031
		-	Exclusions: Theft of a pet (050221); offences against the treatment, raising or keeping of animals (10091); robbery of livestock (04014); theft of livestock (05025)
10031	Trade or possession of protected species of wild fauna and flora Unlawful trade or possession of specimens of protected wild fauna or flora species. - Protected species as defined in footnote A6.	+	Inclusions: Ivory trafficking; apply all inclusions listed in 100311–100312
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1003
100311	Trade or possession of protected species within national borders Unlawful trade or possession of specimens of protected wild fauna or flora species involving only one country. - Protected species as defined in footnote A6.	+	Inclusions: Unlawful trade or possession of endangered species
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 10031
100312	Trafficking of protected species across national borders Unlawful import, export, acquisition, sale, movement or transfer of protected wild fauna or flora species involving two or more countries. - Protected species as defined in footnote A6.	+	Inclusions: Cross-border trafficking in wildlife
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1003
10032	Trade or possession of prohibited or controlled species of animals Unlawful trade or possession of specimens of prohibited or controlled fauna or flora species. - Prohibited species as defined in footnote A6.	+	Inclusions: Possession of dangerous or controlled animals; breeding of dangerous animals; trade in prohibited species
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1003
10039	Other trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora Other acts of unlawful trade or possession of protected or prohibited species of fauna and flora not described or classified in categories 10031 - 10032. - Prohibited species as defined in footnote A6.	+	
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1003

- A6 **Specimen** is any animal or plant, whether alive or dead, or any recognizable part or derivative thereof.
Protected species is a species of fauna or flora under protection due to its risk of becoming extinct because of its low population, over-hunting/fishing, environmental change, predation, or other reasons. (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 1973. <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>).
Prohibited species is a species of fauna or flora that is prohibited by national law due to its invasive qualities to the environment, poses a danger to persons, or other potential to cause harm. (European Union. Developing an EU Framework for Invasive Alien Species. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/ias_discussion_paper.pdf).

1004 Acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources		+	Inclusions: Apply all inclusions listed in 10041 – 10049
Acts that result in the unlawful exploitation or depletion of natural resources, fauna or flora species, land, water or air.		-	Exclusions: Acts that result in the pollution of the natural environment not amounting to depletion or degradation (1001)
10041	Illegal logging Unlawful extraction, cutting, harvest, transportation, purchase or sale of timber.	+	Inclusions: Illegal logging; illegal slash and burn; illegal sand mining
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1004
10042	Illegal hunting, fishing or gathering of wild fauna and flora Unlawful hunting, fishing, collecting or otherwise taking of wild fauna or flora.	+	Inclusions: Illegal hunting, illegal fishing, poaching
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1004
10043	Illegal mining Unlawful extraction of ore or minerals from the ground	+	Inclusions: Trafficking of precious minerals; illegal mining; mining in the absence of land rights or mining licences; mining in violation of environmental or safety standards
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1004
10049	Other acts that result in the depletion or degradation of natural resources Acts depleting natural resources not described or classified in categories 10041 – 10043.	+	Inclusions: Failure to protect the health and well-being of flora and fauna; apply all inclusions listed in 10091 – 10092
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1004
1009 Other acts against the natural environment		+	Inclusions: Animal ownership or welfare offences (not amounting to wildlife trade offences); cruelty to pets; violations against hunting seasons; cruelty to animals; ill treatment of animals
Unlawful acts with potential to cause harm to the natural environment which are not described or classified in categories 1001 – 1004. - Natural environment as defined in footnote A1.		-	Exclusions: Stealing a pet (050221); theft of livestock (05025); robbery of livestock (04014)
10091	Acts against animals Unlawful treatment, raising or keeping of animals.	+	Inclusions: Illegal logging; illegal slash and burn; illegal sand mining
		-	Exclusions: Apply all exclusions listed in 1004
10099	Other acts against the natural environment Other acts against the natural environment not described or classified in 10091. - Natural environment as defined in A1.	+	Inclusions: Smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (ODS); unlawful use of ODS
		-	Exclusions: Unlawful treatment, raising or keeping of animals (10091); Apply all exclusions listed in 1001–1008

Annex III

International framework addressing corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment (non-exhaustive list)

General Assembly resolutions

The General Assembly, in the following resolutions, calls upon Member States to take action to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products.

Resolution A/75/L.116 (2021), on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, notes with concern the role that corruption can play in facilitating illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, and encourages Member States to make use, to the greatest extent possible, of legal instruments available at the national level to protect threatened species of wildlife and to tackle illicit trafficking in wildlife, including through legislation related to money-laundering, corruption, fraud, racketeering and financial crime.

Resolution 73/343 (2019), on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, among others, encourages Member States to take measures to make permit systems more resilient to corruption and to take advantage of modern information and communications technologies for improved control of international trade in protected species of wild fauna and flora in order to prevent the use of fraudulent documents in the international trade in protected species.

Resolution 71/326 (2017), on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, calls upon Member States to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including by assessing and mitigating corruption risks in their technical assistance and capacity-building programmes related to wildlife, by strengthening their capacity to investigate and by prosecuting such corruption, among others.

Resolution 70/301 (2016), on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, stresses the determination to implement fully and without delay the commitments contained in resolution 69/314.

Resolution 69/314 (2015), on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, calls upon Member States to prohibit, prevent and counter any form of corruption that facilitates illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products. It further strongly encourages Member States to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate international illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products through, inter alia, the use of international legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

United Nations Economic and Social Council

It is emphasized in the following resolutions that coordinated action is critical to tackling corruption and to disrupting the illicit networks that drive and enable illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora.

Resolution 28/3 (2019), on strengthening regional and international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in wildlife, notes that illicit trafficking in wildlife may have links to other forms of transnational organized crime and may occur alongside or in conjunction with other crimes and illegal activities, including money-laundering and corruption.

Resolution 2013/40 (2013), on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora, emphasizes that coordinated action is critical to tackling corruption and to disrupting the illicit networks that drive and enable illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora.

Resolution 2011/36 (2011), on crime prevention and criminal justice responses against illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, urges Member States to review their legal frameworks with a view to providing the most extensive international cooperation possible to fully address all aspects of illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, particularly with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance for investigation and prosecution.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Resolution 23/1 (2014), on strengthening a targeted crime prevention and criminal justice response to combat illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber, recognizes that the need to strengthen collective efforts in preventing and combating transnational organized crime, money-laundering and corruption is critical, as they can facilitate, in some cases, illicit trafficking in forest products, including timber.

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

Resolution 8/12 (2019), on preventing and combating corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, emphasizes the need for States parties to adopt preventive and enforcement measures that align with the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to deter crimes that have an impact on the environment. Suggested measures include the promotion of ethical practices, integrity and transparency; the promotion of civil society and private sector participation to raise awareness; measures to ensure that legal and natural persons are held accountable; strengthened inter-agency cooperation; investigation and prosecution of the financial flows of proceeds of crime and money-laundering which may derive from corruption as it relates to crimes that have an impact on the environment, including by using financial investigation techniques.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

In **Resolution 10/6 (2020)**, on preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, States parties to the Organized Crime Convention expressed concern regarding the findings of existing research that indicated that crimes that affect the environment have become some of the most lucrative transnational criminal activities and that they are often closely interlinked with different forms of crime and corruption, and that money-laundering and the illicit financial flows derived from them may contribute to the financing of other transnational organized crimes and terrorism. Accordingly, among others, States parties were called upon to assess and mitigate corruption risks and to strengthen anti-corruption measures, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to prevent conflicts of interest, to promote ethical practices and transparency and to ensure integrity throughout the entire crime prevention and criminal justice system, without prejudice to judicial independence.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

Resolution 17.6 (2016), on prohibiting, preventing and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention, acknowledges the high degree of involvement of organized criminal groups and networks in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna and their frequent use of corrupt practices to facilitate wildlife crime and frustrate efforts to enforce laws against wildlife crime. Further, among others, it calls on parties to take measures to prohibit, prevent, detect and counter instances of corruption and to ensure that any corrupt practices associated with the administration, regulation, implementation or enforcement of the Convention are punishable with appropriate penalties under national legislation.

