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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



CORRUPTION and WILDLIFE CRIME



COMBATING
WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



CORRUPTION and

The illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna is a serious and growing problem in all parts of the world, negatively impacting economic and social development, security and governance. Wildlife and Forest Crime (WLFC) has all the hallmarks of transnational organized crime and frequently involves other forms of serious crime such as fraud, money laundering, and corruption.

Transnational organized criminal networks are moving poached or illegally harvested wildlife using a variety of smuggling techniques, often by means of existing infrastructures and well-developed routes used for the trafficking of drugs, people, weapons, counterfeit goods and other forms of contraband. All links in this trafficking chain are facilitated by varying levels of corruption – both in the public and private sectors.

Yet in spite of all the negative impacts, WLFC continues to be viewed as being outside 'mainstream crime' by many in the law enforcement community, Governments and the public. Despite the transnational and organized nature of this illicit trade, the response varies significantly from one region to another. Successful investigations and prosecutions are few, an indication of the low priority often given to this issue. When addressing corruption linked to WLFC, efforts are haphazard, if any.

Everyone is aware that corruption plays a major role in facilitating every aspect of this crime. It is now the moment to complement the host of law enforcement, prosecutorial and demand reduction efforts by preventing corruption in the wildlife and timber sector.

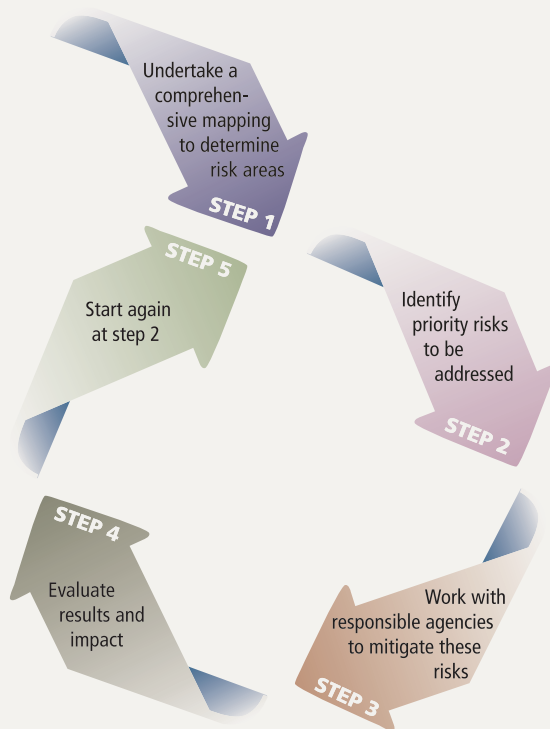


WILDLIFE CRIME

Prevention preserves the future

Every time a seizure of fresh ivory, horn, or timber is made, it is too late. The animal is dead or the forest has been logged. Therefore, UNODC's response to corruption in wildlife and forest crime is primarily preventive:

1. Strengthen measures to prevent corruption in wildlife and forestry management.
2. Sensitize and educate staff and communities.
3. Prevent and combat corruption in the transport of wildlife and forest products by:
 - Building systems to identify collusion between wildlife/forestry criminals and staff in both public and private sectors involved in the transport of wildlife or forest products (such as customs authorities, port authorities, airlines, and shipping companies); and
 - Identifying and mitigating corruption risks in identified organizations.



The UN Convention against Corruption is the only universal, legally binding anti-corruption instrument. It embodies innovative and globally accepted anti-corruption standards and provides a comprehensive approach to preventing and combatting corruption in all its forms.



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**For more information,
please contact:**

Ms. Maria Adomeit

Corruption and Economic Crime Branch

UNODC

maria.adomeit@unodc.org

Ms. Olga Kuzmianok

Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime

Sustainable Livelihoods Unit

UNODC

olga.kuzmianok@unodc.org

This is our shared planet.
Wildlife and forest crime is
our shared responsibility.

Photos: Asian Development Bank; USFWS Mountain Prairie; Diana Robinson.

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