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1. THE IMPACT of ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME MARKETS IS GROWING
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- Between 2015 and 2019, killings of environmental human rights defenders were recorded in 64 countries.
1. Recommendations for States

• (1) Adopt a comprehensive approach to combating environmental crime
• Enable this approach by collecting information on emerging forms of environmental crime
  • such as illegal land grabbing, water theft and pollution crimes
• Measure success through the ability of criminal justice to help us meet science-based targets
• (2) Take measures to promote the role of and protect members from civil society who play crucial roles in preventing and combating environmental crime in a peaceful manner and are particularly at risk;
  • Integrate indigenous and local people in/near protected areas into responses.
2. STATE EMBEDDED ACTORS – and Legal persons - POSE a KEY CHALLENGE

- Corruption acts as a systematic enabler for organized environmental crime and facilitates a range of crimes across complex value chains.

- State-embedded actors drive impunity for crimes against the environment and creates political instability.

- Linked to this, legal persons – and their role in environmental crime and corruption – are poorly captured by existing criminal law.

- Lack of transparency about licit trade in environmental commodities, and broader weaknesses in measures to prevent fraud, money laundering and illicit financial flows, enable environmental crime.
2. Recommendations for States

- (1) Enable more ‘open data’ about corporate activities, particularly permission to operate in biodiversity hotspots; beneficial ownership; as well as state procurement and due diligence measures.

- This can help to:
  - Prevent the abuse of financial systems for money-laundering purposes
  - Prevent the criminal infiltration of value chains of private and public corporations.

- (2) Ensure there are proportionate and dissuasive sanctions against legal persons
3. A SOPHISTICATED RESPONSE NEEDS Strong DATA foundation

• Effective responses rely on a large range of data—both about illicit markets and about the response itself.

• We need to strive build a strong data foundation for the response to environmental crime.

• Environmental crime data needs to be timely and actionable local data; and strategic and global.
3. Recommendations for States:

- (1) **Enable more research on crimes that affect the environment**, including on:
  - whether the legislation is implemented and enforced and whether the sanctions imposed deter offending
  - drivers of demand and other metrics to inform preventative action
  - identifying promising innovations to support, and investing in aligning data collection protocols across borders,

- (2) **Create incentives** for public officials to share data and evidence internationally to facilitate international cooperation on tackling environmental crime

- (3) **Establish** an open-ended multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary expert group on crimes that affect the environment, that can define a data agenda for an effective global response.