



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Corruption and the Environment



# Presentation Overview

- 3 areas will be covered
- Why corruption and the environment matters
- Some relevant global commitments the conventions and resolutions
- What can and needs to be done (illustrated through an example)



## Why it matters?

- Corruption can derail every attempt to address climate change
- Corruption is about personal and corporate greed
- Anyone from car company executives to gate keepers at the entrances to forests can be corrupt
- Later I will use a deforestation example
- Deforestation is estimated to cause 15%+ of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions –much of it is illegal



### Source

- Poaching
- Preparation
- Selling

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### Transit

- Concealment
- Cross border smuggling
- Fraudulent documentation

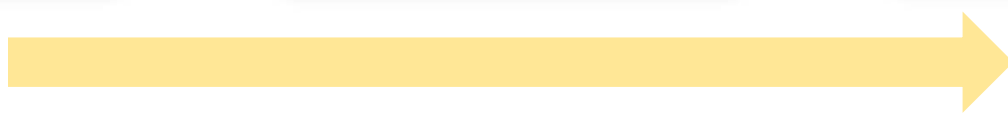
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### Destination

- Documentation
- Storage
- Consumption
- Sales

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**SUPPLY**



**DEMAND**



## And more .....

Corruption can stop proper investigation.....

Either by

- Evidence being not produced; or
- Evidence being destroyed or doctored; or
- Bribes being paid to investigators, prosecutors or members of the judiciary



# The Global Conventions

United Nations Convention Against Corruption -180 States Parties

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
197 Parties

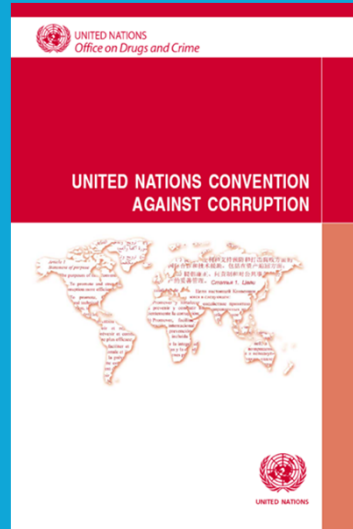
Sustainable Development Goals 13 Climate Change,  
SDG 16: Includes specific anti-corruption targets



# United Nations Convention against Corruption

*Chapter II  
Preventive  
measures*

*Chapter III  
Criminalization &  
Law Enforcement*



*Chapter V  
Asset Recovery*

*Chapter IV  
International  
Cooperation*



# The CITES Resolution

At CITES COP 17 in 2016

Resolution on *Prohibiting, Preventing and Countering Corruption which Facilitates Activities Conducted in Violation of the Convention*

Is this an example for UNFCCC?





# What needs to be done?

Anti-Corruption and climate change experts need to work together more closely

Needs to move from limited isolated initiatives to a more concerted effort to stop corruption impacting on climate change goals

This concerted effort needs to be broken down into manageable specific actions



# What is a manageable specific action 1

- Take an organization e.g a forestry management agency
- Bring together anti-corruption experts in the Country with Forestry Management Experts to undertake a detailed assessment of corruption risks in forest management



## For the most serious risks.....

- It terms of likelihood and impact.....
- Design specific risk mitigation strategies, which will always revolve around either:
  - Seeking to implement or strengthen systems; and/or
  - Finding better ways of ensuring that people follow the systems in place



## An example of a risk

This has happened but is sanitized:

A permit is issued for 30 tons of wood

Using this permit 90 tons of wood is harvested and transported to the coast



## What were the issues at play?

- More wood is being taken than the permit allows
- More wood is being transported than the permit allows
- The owner of the business harvesting the wood is a “good friend” of the Forestry Agency person responsible for checking amounts being harvested
- Police checking cargoes allow photocopied permits



# What are the issues at play part 1

- The forestry agency person is not doing the job they were meant to.
- The forestry agency person may be too close to the owners of the company harvesting the wood
- The use of photocopied documents makes it very difficult to check once the wood has left the forest (is this obvious systems weakness deliberate?)



## So what is the impact

- The forest management agency cannot control the rate of deforestation
- This contributes to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Uncontrolled climate change



## So what do we do?

- We either amend the systems or we work with the people
- In this case with UNODC advice





## We develop a corruption risk mitigation plan

- Addresses a specific issue
  - Achievable within available resources
  - Time-bound-has clear target dates
  - A person is responsible for the remedial action
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- **THE AGENCY IS IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION TO CONTROL DEFORESTATION**

# COMBATING WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



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