Short Session Report

Session Title: Shared planet, shared responsibility: creating multi-stakeholder alliances to combat wildlife, forest and fisheries crime
Date & Time: 02 December 2016, 11h30 – 13h30
Report prepared by: Rob Parry-Jones, Lead, Global Policy, Wildlife Crime, WWF International

Experts:

Mrs. Dorcas Agik Oduor, Deputy Director Public Prosecutions and Head of Economic, International and Emerging Crimes at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Kenya
Tom Keatinge, Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies
Gail Lugten, fisheries law expert and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania
James Swenson, Head of Financial Crime and Reputational Risk Managed Services, Thomson Reuters
Sebastian Wegner, Senior Policy Coordinator for the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) at HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform

Moderated by: Juan Carlos Navarro, former Mayor of Panama City, and Nicole Botha is a Senior Advisor on Anticorruption and Integrity with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
Session coordinated by: Rob Parry-Jones, Lead, Global Policy, Wildlife Crime, WWF International
Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?

Corruption occurs at every stage of natural resource value chains. Political corruption and systemic governmental corruption provide the enabling environment for supply chain corruption. Grand, political and petty corruption are pervasive enablers of wildlife, forest and fisheries crime, including illicit access to, overexploitation of, and trade in natural living resources. Associated illicit financial flows exacerbate poverty and economic disparities, undermine resource management plans and legal trade regimes, threatening food and economic security. Why are enforcement efforts not addressing illicit financial flows? Why are the conservationist and anti-corruption communities, the financial crime and organised crime communities, etc not joining forces to deepen understanding and tackle head-on what are recognised as the key enablers of wildlife crime – and thus the entry points?

Note: “wildlife” includes terrestrial and aquatic animals and plants, and thus wildlife, forests and fisheries.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)

Anti-corruption and conservation communities must join forces, taking forward outcomes of the 3C Network: greater understanding is required of what types of corruption occur where and how, and how to link wildlife crime and associated financial crime.

Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

As above
What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

Anti-corruption and conservation communities must join forces, taking forward outcomes of 3C Network: greater understanding is required of what types of corruption occur where and how, and the links between wildlife crime and associated financial crime.

Enact an International Convention that compels countries to lift the veil in cases of criminal and corrupt behaviour to evade international legal obligations pertaining to human rights and environmental crimes.

Encourage the Wolfsberg group to develop specific principles / guidelines regarding how to link wildlife crime to financial crime.

Consider mandatory implementation and reporting by private sector of due diligence procedures for reducing risks of involvement in wildlife crime, similar to the requirements of the modern slavery act.

Using the human trafficking example, explore feasibility of banks prioritising finance analysis to identify red flags for financial transactions likely to be associated with wildlife crime.

Strategies for prevention of corruption should, as a priority, be included in the hiring, training and management of staff, including protecting whistle blowers;

Use existing instruments to facilitate the high-levels of international cooperation required, including: FATF; OECD; UNCAC; UNTOC, including mutual legal assistance, and harmonising domestic laws and arrangements.

Establish cross-sectoral interagency task forces to address wildlife crime so that the full range of the law, for example laws concerning tax evasion; document fraud, slavery and human trafficking, and money laundering can be brought to bear on actors engaged in wildlife crime.

Insist on credible public transparency in the issuance of official
documentation concerning, contracts, loans, payments, beneficial owners, permitting and licensing, etc., regarding the exploitation of natural living resources.

Interaction between the private sector, civil society and government is the magic triangle for effecting change, in e.g. delivering credible transparency, building trust and political will: this is the basis for collective action for change (e.g. Fisheries Transparency Initiative) – building on successful models and experience of existing initiatives such as the EITI.

Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

Grand, political and systemic governmental corruption provide the enabling environment for entire value chain corruption, including illicit access to, overexploitation of, and trade in natural living resources. Associated illicit financial flows exacerbate poverty and economic disparities, undermine resource management plans and legal trade regimes, threatening food and economic security, thereby undermining the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Interaction between the private sector, civil society and government provides the basis for collective action for change, delivering credible transparency, building trust and political will.

Anti-corruption and conservation communities must join forces, taking forward outcomes of 3C Network: greater understanding is required of what types of corruption occur where and how, and the links between wildlife crime and associated financial crime.

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted

Rob Parry-Jones
Submitted 02 Dec 2016

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