

Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Welcome! We will begin shortly.

This is a Zoom webinar. All participant videos are off and lines are muted, but please feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

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TNRC Learning Series

Corruption in the wild plants supply chain: Addressing the social, financial, and environmental costs



Dr. Elizabeth Hart

Chief of Party, Targeting Natural
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Corruption in the wild plants supply chain: Addressing the social, financial, and environmental costs



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Anastasiya Timoshyna
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Ground rules...

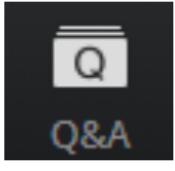
Audio Settings ^

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

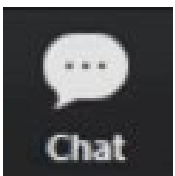
Leave Meeting



1. Pose questions at any time by clicking on the “Q&A” icon



“Like” questions to “upvote” them for the moderator and/or answer from your experience



2. Exchange thoughts with other participants via chat

Introduce yourself and share your own insights and ideas in the chat window

Polls
Connection

1. How are you attached to the meeting?
☐ Windows PC
☐ Mac PC
☒ Android phone/tablet
☐ iOS phone/tablet
☐ Other
2. How are you attached to the audio?
☒ Phone
☐ VOIP/computer speakers

Polls
Host is sharing poll results

1. How are you attached to the meeting?(Multiple Choice)

Windows PC	67%
Mac PC	33%
Android phone/tablet	0%
iOS phone/tablet	0%
Other	0%

2. How are you attached to the audio?

Phone	0%
VOIP/computer speakers	100%

3. Respond to polls as they are launched

Make your selections and remember to click “submit”!

POLL

Where are you based?

- a. Africa
- b. Asia
- c. Latin America and the Caribbean
- d. North America
- e. Europe
- f. Other

Corruption in the wild plants supply chain: Addressing the social, financial, and environmental costs

LEARNING QUESTIONS

1. What does corruption in NTFP supply chains look like?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses to different approaches to reduce corruption in NTFP supply chains?
3. What recommendations can natural resource management practitioners use when they are implementing NTFP-focused programmes?



Anastasiya Timoshyna

Senior Programme Coordinator –
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Understanding and reducing corruption risks in the global trade in wild plants

Anastasiya Timoshyna
Senior Programme Coordinator – Sustainable Trade
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presentation structure

1. Scale, geography and features of the trade in NTFPs
2. Corruption risks in the trade in NTFPs
3. Potential approaches and tools to address corruption in NTFPs trade chains
4. Recommendations for practical steps to addressing (opportunities for) corruption in NTFPs trade

Understanding corruption risks in the global trade in wild plants

Anastasiya Timoshyna, TRAFFIC
Eleanor Drinkwater, TRAFFIC

Key takeaways

- » Wild plants (often referred to as Non-Timber Forest Products, or NTFPs) are used as ingredients in thousands of products and are sourced from the wild all over the world. Ingredients are traded through complex supply chains, regulated both formally and through customary norms.
- » A range of corruption types are documented throughout NTFP supply chains, including bribery, collusion, nepotism, and favoritism. However, corruption in NTFP supply chains remains an understudied subject.
- » Three strategies are proposed to address the risks that corruption poses in the wild plant NTFPs trade sector: 1) improved resource governance, 2) increased use of appropriate voluntary certification standards, and 3) enhanced implementation of traceability approaches.
- » Recommendations to natural resource management practitioners, businesses, government agencies, and voluntary certification standards owners include more in-depth assessment of current and potential corruption risks in NTFP supply chains and multi-stakeholder involvement in developing and implementing strategies to reduce them.

The challenge

Wild plants and fungi are a significant source of ingredients used in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and food, in local medicines and other products supporting health and livelihoods. Global annual income from the production of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) has been conservatively valued at USD88 billion, coming mostly from the production of plant-based NTFPs (FAO 2014).¹ While estimates vary across geography and sector, 60–90 percent of plant NTFP species in trade are thought to be wild-harvested (Mulliken and Inskipp 2006, Jenkins *et al.* 2018). These species make up an important part of rural livelihoods and are particularly important to ethnic minorities or indigenous peoples and local community (IPLC) groups.

Challenges around the trade in wild plants include increasing demand, insufficient knowledge about sustainable harvesting levels, over-harvesting, complex trade chains, lack of traceability, and corruption. **The scale and nature of corruption in wild plant supply chains is poorly understood, presenting important risks to livelihoods and the success of conservation efforts.** Practitioners in the conservation and natural resource management

Non-timber forest products

NTFPs: Wild-sourced resources (including plants and fungi) sourced from many types of ecosystems and habitats in addition to forests.

In this brief, NTFPs include **a range of plant and fungi resources**, excluding products of animal origin (e.g. game meat or honey).



SPECIES, THREATS, AND WILD HARVESTING



26K

plant species have well-documented use, and twice as many are estimated to be used for medicinal purposes

10%

of these (~3,000 species) are traded internationally

11%

of the 19% of species that have been assessed are threatened with extinction in the wild based on **IUCN Red List criteria**

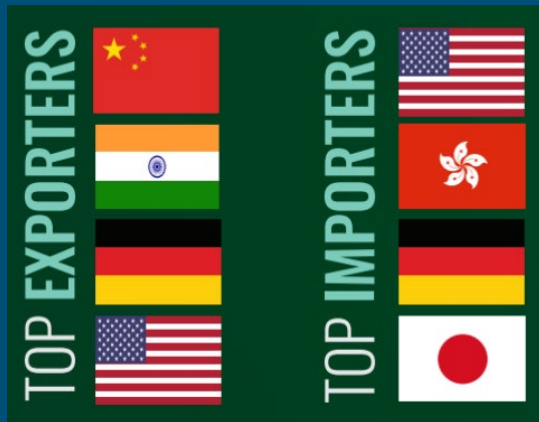
60-90%

of species are thought to be **wild-collected** by rural and marginalised communities, with many relying on plants for their income and wellbeing



increasing trade

international trade in medicinal and aromatic plants



US\$ 1.1 billion
1999



US\$ 1.8 billion
2009



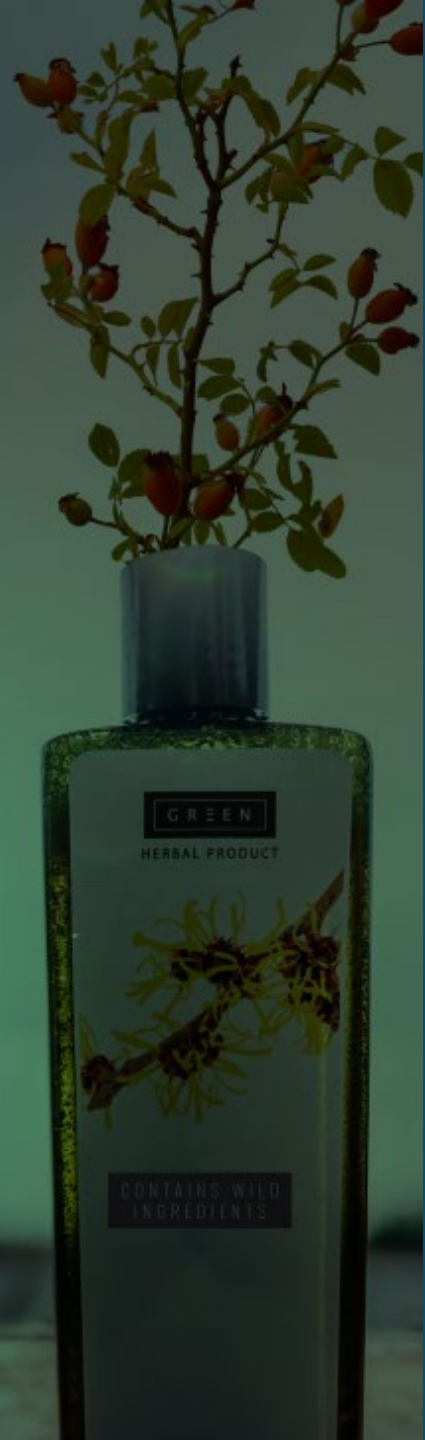
US\$ 3.3 billion
2018

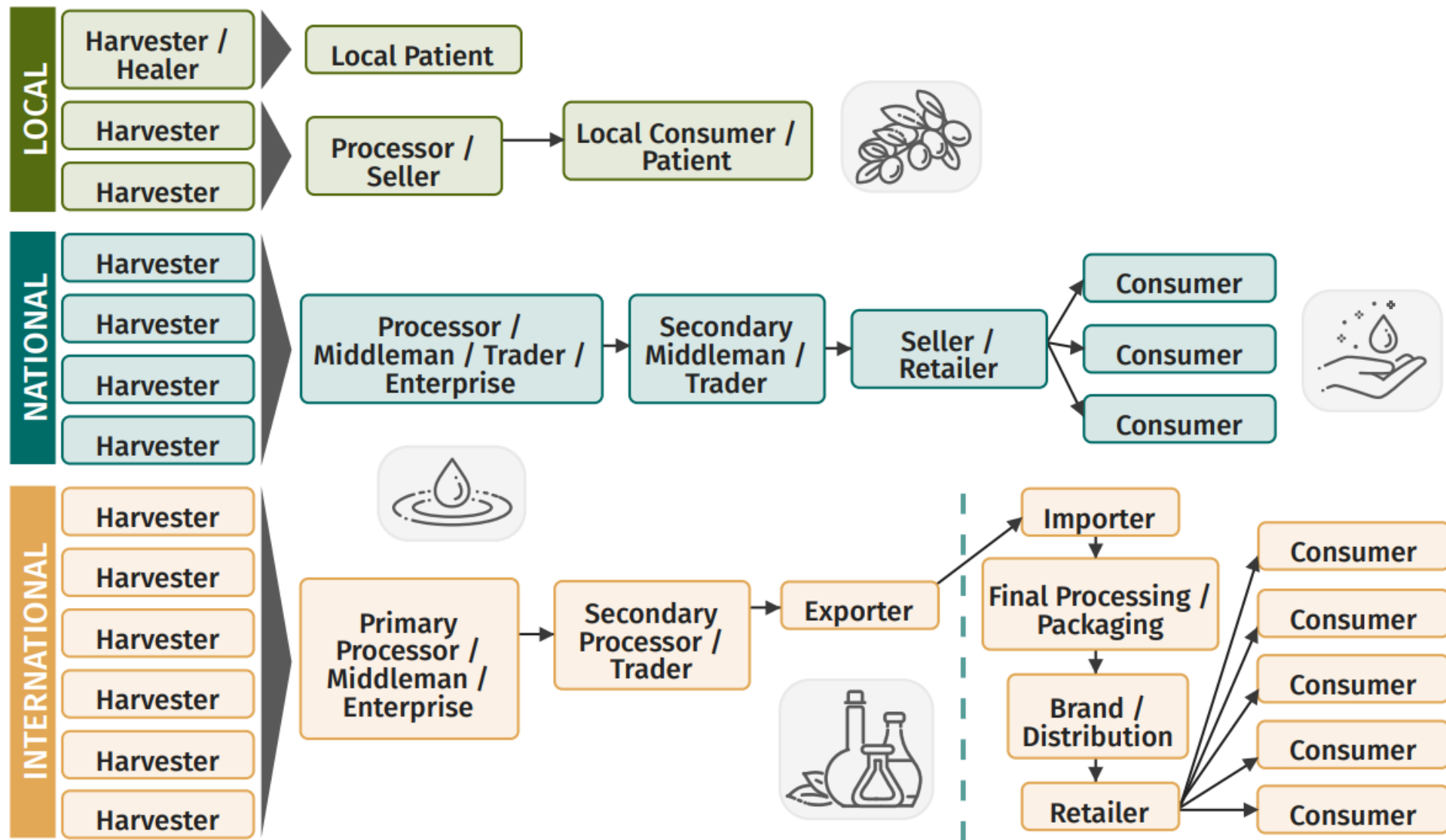
TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

THE INVISIBLE TRADE

WILD PLANTS AND YOU
IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19 AND THE ESSENTIAL
JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Anastasiya Timoshyna,
Zhang Ke,
Yuqi Yang,
Xu Ling,
Danna Leaman





Parallel value chains of wild plants for local consumption and trade, national and international trade
 Adapted from Booker, Johnston and Heinrich 2012



Corruption in NTFP supply chains

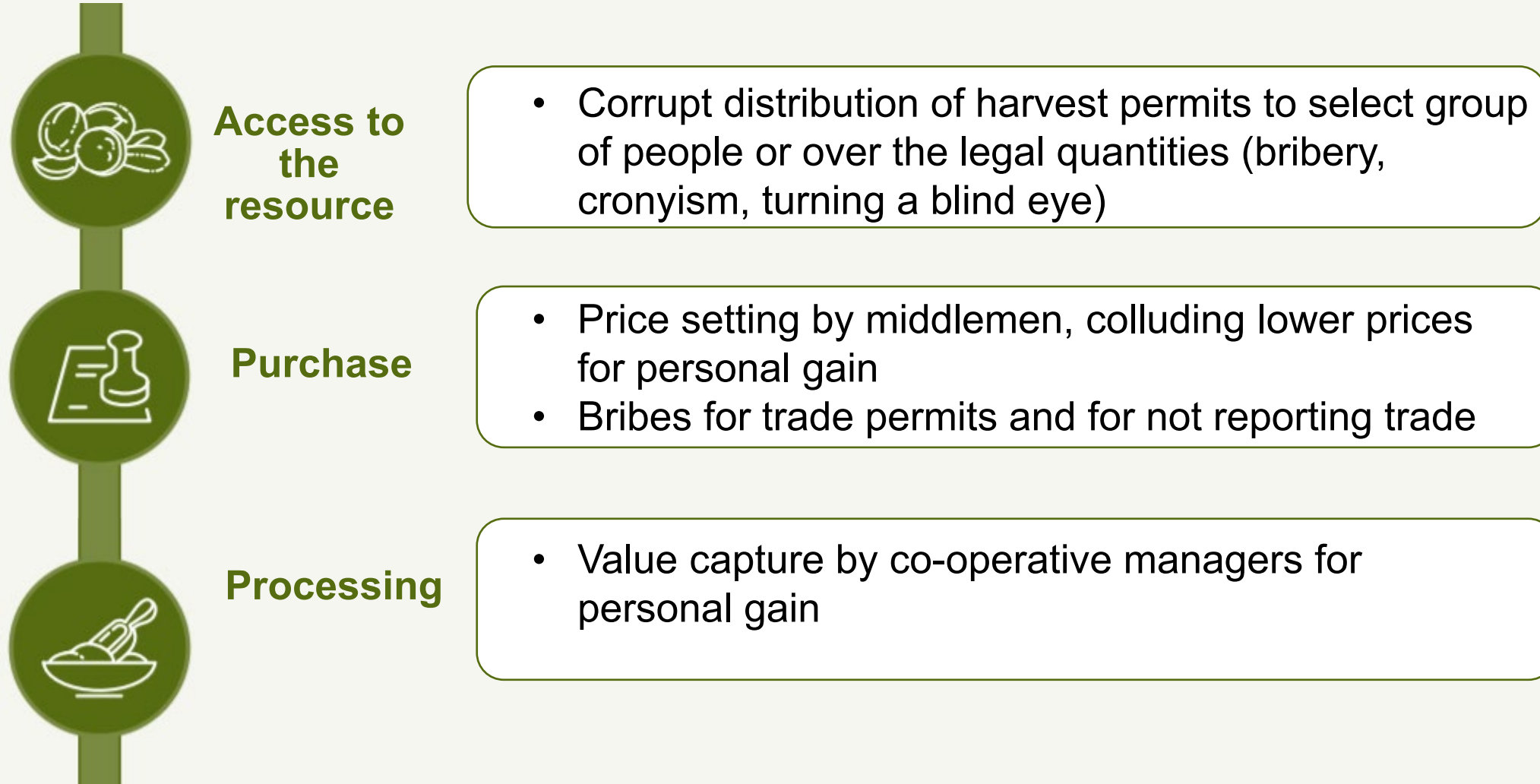
Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain
(*Transparency International 2020*)

Different types of corruption are likely to occur at different points along the chain

Examples of corruption along NTFP trade chains documented in a brief



corruption risks along wild plant NTFP supply chains



corruption risks along wild plant NTFP supply chains



Transport

- Bribes at checkpoints to allow/expedite checks
- Falsification of documents to change species, volumes, origin for bribes



Export and import

- Corrupt actions to avoid inspection
- Bribes for export/import permits
- Bribes for paperwork to be “forgotten”



Manufacture and sale

- Risk of corruption allowing adulteration of product



Consumption

- High-value NTFPs as objects of corruption (e.g. bribes)

corruption risks along wild plant NTFP supply chains



Transport

- Bribes at checkpoints to allow/expedite checks
- Falsification of documents to change species, volumes, origin for bribes



Export and import

- Corrupt actions to avoid inspection
- Bribes for export/import permits
- Bribes for paperwork to be “forgotten”



Manufacture and sale

Gender lens: Risk of sexual extortion at these stages



Consumption



Case study: women and corruption in the NTFP supply chain

- **Southern Africa:** border guards allegedly requested sexual favors from female traders for waiving border permits for trading baobab (Wynberg et al. 2015)
- Similar cases have been reported by women trading shea across borders.




Case study: women and corruption in the NTFP supply chain

- **Southern Africa:** border guards allegedly requested sexual favors from female traders for waiving border permits for trading baobab (Wynberg et al. 2015)
- Similar cases have been reported by women trading shea across borders.

These allegations have serious livelihood implications, driving some women to move away from cross-border trading and into less lucrative professions


Potential approaches and tools to address corruption in NTFPs trade chains



A photograph of two women in a rustic setting, likely a cocoa processing area. They are sitting on the floor, working with large metal bowls filled with cocoa beans. The woman in the foreground is wearing a black t-shirt and a white headscarf, while the woman in the background is wearing a green t-shirt and a blue headscarf. The floor is made of dirt, and there are several other bowls and a bucket nearby. The background wall is made of corrugated metal.

Potential approaches and tools to address corruption in NTFPs trade chains

1. Improved resource governance, transparency and community empowerment
2. Increased use of appropriate voluntary certification standards
3. Enhanced implementation of traceability approaches



Potential approaches and tools to address corruption in NTFPs trade chains

1. Improved resource governance, transparency and community empowerment
2. Increased use of appropriate voluntary certification standards
3. Enhanced implementation of traceability approaches

- Following key principles on development of regulatory systems to support compliance
- Locally-appropriate resource governance
- Practical assistance on e.g. legal permits access, market prices information

- Greater transparency, supply chains mapping
- Increased resources and capacity to monitor the trade
- Assurance mechanisms and pathways to address non-compliance

- Traceability may help deter corruption in supply chains, but ensuring traceability in NTFPs is challenging; piloting needed, including of appropriate technologies

Practical steps to reduce opportunities for corruption in NTFPs trade



Practical steps to reduce opportunities for corruption in NTFPs trade

Follow the key principles for multi-actor supply chains when implementing NTFPs programmes.

- decentralized resource governance (if local governance is accountable and transparent, and the intervention is appropriate)
- lobbying for policy changes to clarify and simplify government regulations and permitting processes.

Pilot traceability approaches for high-risk NTFPs and document impacts on the likelihood of corruption occurring.

Increase the use of appropriate voluntary certification schemes (such as FairWild) and document impacts on the risk of corruption.

Owners of voluntary certification **standards should undertake corruption risk assessments**, and integrate mechanisms to reduce opportunities for corruption



Recommendations on further knowledge generation

- 1) Researchers and practitioners in the NTFPs field should document and publish **corruption examples and solutions**
- 2) A specific area requiring further understanding is the **impact of corruption on women in NTFP** supply chains
- 3) NRM researchers should incorporate measurable **markers of success** to determine the efficacy of different anti-corruption measures on NTFP supply chains



thank you!

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the wildlife trade monitoring network

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After attending this webinar, would you say that you have:

- ☐ **A. A better understanding of what corruption in NTFP supply chains looks like?**
- ☐ **B. A better sense of the strengths and weaknesses to different approaches to reduce corruption in NTFP supply chains?**
- ☐ **C. A better understanding of strategies that can be used when implementing NTFP-focused programs?**

Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Harnessing knowledge, generating evidence, and supporting innovative policy and practice for more effective anti-corruption programming

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