Exploring responses to corruption in natural resource management and conservation practice

The issue

Corruption undoubtedly plays a role in degrading nature, undermining conservation efforts, distorting good governance and disrupting communities around the world. Corruption is dynamic – it changes and develops over time and no two situations look exactly alike. There is therefore no single solution.

The way that corruption is defined shapes anti-corruption responses, and there is currently a wide variety of approaches in natural resource management and conservation. However, a lack of a common understanding as well as current practice and funding frameworks have resulted in an often confusing or poorly supported policy-and-implementation landscape for how and when to effectively tackle corruption in conservation. There is also a disparity between those who are directly impacted by corruption and those with the tools and resources to create change, support capacity development and advocacy, and share learning or novel thinking.

The response

Drawing on the ongoing project Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC), the Luc Hoffmann Institute is partnering with the TNRC project consortium to incubate anti-corruption responses by connecting conservation practitioners with existing corruption expertise from non-conservation sectors. By opening up dialogue and sharing cross-sectoral learning on corruption, its impact on natural resource and conservation outcomes, and what is known about addressing it, this initiative aims to enable conservation policy and programmatic leaders to question, explore and adopt fresh and effective approaches to corruption in global conservation practice.
This initiative brings together a group of leaders from within conservation and other key sectors to explore how corruption impacts conservation and what conservation practitioners might learn and adopt from other fields that have been testing anti-corruption strategies for decades – fields such as international development, peace-building, infrastructure development and governance. It is envisioned that this process will increase connection and capacity, allowing for new and more effective anti-corruption approaches across conservation and natural resource management; and fostering strong and collective action to enact systemic change.

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