



Lessons from the Field: Building the Evidence Base on Natural Resource Corruption

Colombia Mission Spotlight

March 23, 2021

LAC Environment Learning



LAC Environment Learning Series

Today:

- Lessons from the Field: Building the Evidence Base on Natural Resource Corruption (Colombia Mission Spotlight)

Past Webinars:

- Artisanal Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector Expansion in Latin America: Drivers, Impacts, Solutions, Feb 21, 2021
- Private Sector Engagement Learning Sprint and PSE in Sustainable Cattle Practices, March 9, 2021

Upcoming Webinar:

- Reducing Ocean Plastics in LAC- April 27, 2021
- Findings from Colombia Mission's Corruption Analysis-TDB



— Agenda

- Website and Google Group Launch
- Combating Conservation Crime Learning Agenda
- Presentations
 - **Danielle Tedesco**, Deputy Director, Office of Environment, USAID/Colombia
 - **Catalina Correa**, MEL Specialist, USAID/Colombia
 - **Mónica Rincón**, Development Outreach & Communications Specialist, USAID/Colombia
- Q&A with presenters

LAC Environment
Learning Series Webinar



LAC Environment CCC Learning Agenda

Strategic Approaches:

- Strengthen reporting by indigenous/local communities
- Strengthen law enforcement



COMBATING CONSERVATION CRIME LEARNING AGENDA
Latin America and the Caribbean Environment
November 2020

Photo by Eric Stoner
Forest Canopy In Para state Brazil

Purpose and Context
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is a key partner in the U.S. Government's interagency Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) and on conservation crime more broadly. The 2013 CWT Executive Order and the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 established combating wildlife trafficking as a U.S. government priority. With the 2017 Executive Order on Transnational Organized Crime, the Administration added combating conservation crimes to the interagency CWT effort, highlighting the links between transnational organized crime and illegal logging, illegal extraction and trade of gold, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The LAC Environment Combating Conservation Crime (CCC) Learning Program and Agenda address the need to understand the drivers, actors, and patterns of conservation crimes particular to the LAC region, and the conditions under which prioritized CCC strategic approaches best function to achieve environmental outcomes. This learning agenda is designed to gather and share evidence on the effectiveness of approaches to deter conservation crimes to **inform USAID programming for biodiversity conservation and sustainable landscapes**. It defines **learning questions** and then develops types of **learning activities** to address them.

This Learning Agenda complements the USAID Office of Forestry and Biodiversity's CWT Learning Program. While FAB's CWT Learning Program contributes to global learning, it has been primarily informed by CWT efforts in Africa and Asia, the regions with the deepest history of attention to this issue. The particular dynamics of conservation crime in Latin America necessitate focused learning. For example, understanding and addressing threats to the safety of Indigenous and other local communities, who are often the frontline defenders against conservation crimes, is especially urgent in the LAC region.

The Learning Agenda will also link to the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption Learning Series and USAID's [Self-Reliance and Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Learning Agendas](#) and [Environment and Natural Resource Management Framework](#).

Purpose and Content
Framework
Community Reporting
Law Enforcement
Corruption

LEARNING QUESTIONS



LQ 1

Under what conditions is **community reporting** effective at deterring conservation crime?

LQ 2.1

Under what conditions is **law enforcement** effective at deterring conservation crime?

LQ 2.2

Under what conditions does **transnational coordination** improve the effectiveness of combating conservation crime?

LQ 3

What are the factors related to **corruption** that impact the effectiveness of combating conservation crime?



LQ 3

What are the factors related to **corruption** that impact the effectiveness of combating conservation crime?

Factors with negative impact, including:

- Selective or biased ground-level law enforcement
- Interference in judicial processing of conservation crimes
- Corrupt elites that shape natural resources governance policies for personal benefit
- Complicated regulations
- Presence of transnational criminal organizations & convergence of conservation crimes with drug trafficking, etc.

Factors with positive impact, including:

- Investigative journalism & watchdog organizations
- Transparent information systems (ex. MCSNIFFS lumber tracing)
- Anti-corruption champions

Presenters: USAID/Colombia



Danielle Tedesco
Deputy Director,
Office of Environment



Catalina Correa
MEL Specialist,
Office of Environment



Mónica Rincón
Development Outreach &
Communications Specialist

Transparent Governance of Natural Resources (TGNR)

AWARD TYPE

Associate award with DDI Global **TNRC** project

GOAL

To address the resource corruption that hinders peacebuilding and contributes to deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss in Colombia.

LIFE OF ACTIVITY

June 2020 – May 2021

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Colombian Amazon and Pacific regions

CONSORTIUM

WWF, Colombian Foundation for Conservation & Sustainable Development, Transparency Colombia, InSight Crime



What learning need did the Mission aim to address through this Associate Award?

- Trends and dynamics of deforestation and corruption in the ENRM Sector
- Criminal networks, actors, financing, and legal/administrative barriers
- Information gap and establish baseline data
- Inform new (and integrated) designs, build alliances, training
- Build political will and strengthen cooperation for effective responses



Credit: Colombia Reports

Key Components: Analysis and Outreach/Awareness



- Integrated analysis of the four drivers
- Two phases of research:
 - Literature and secondary source data review
 - Qualitative data collection (interviews)
- Methodology framework that evaluates corruption risks
- Nine modules or phases of analysis
- Evidence collected in first five months informed video content

How did the sensitivity of this topic impact the research methodology? How did the activity contribute to broader agency and TNRC learning?

- Making the decision to create a MELP and at what level of detail
- Data collection, management, and security concerns
- Implementing applied research based on analysis evidence, findings, and recommendations
- Broader learning questions: overall project/process, linking directly to TNRC learning agenda (now also LAC CCC Agenda)
- TGNR quarterly learning calls with TNRC and with other newer activities under TNRC



Credit: Nicolo Filippo Rosso on Bloomberg News

What strategies did you use to communicate about corruption with different audiences, including the Government of Colombia?



Credit: Kobby Mendez on Unsplash

- Balanced, solutions-oriented approach: Accountability, integrity, transparency, trust, rule of law
- Dispelling the fear of corruption: Importance to peace and inclusive rural development (common goals)
- Relatability: Everyday examples, the roles of various stakeholders, call to action
- Common, clear message: **Corruption undermines global development and biodiversity conservation**
- Validation workshops and products to share with various stakeholders
- Dissemination plan for videos and communications products

Example Communications Product

Así funcionan las redes criminales que están detrás de la minería ilegal



la minería ilegal es una de las principales causas de la deforestación y contaminación en Colombia.

La minería ilegal es una de las principales causas de deforestación en Colombia. Alrededor del 80% de la minería de oro puede ser de origen ilegal. WWF Colombia, Transparencia por Colombia, FCDS e InSight Crime explican qué actores criminales participan en esta práctica que está acabando con la selva del Pacífico colombiano y contaminando sus ríos. El video hace parte de una investigación conjunta que apoya la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID).

What key challenges arose in carrying out this research?

- COVID (#1) – adaptive management
- Safety and security concerns
(people and data)
- Measuring impact in short timeframe
(8 months)
- Not “pointing the finger,” but feasible solutions
- Key messages for general audience on a challenging topic or topics



Credit: USAID/Colombia

What tips do you have for Missions seeking to do something similar? Is there anything you would have done differently?



- Field research: Promote the importance of site visits and local voices
- Inclusivity: Ensure there are ample opportunities to engage with a variety of stakeholders/local voices
- Dissemination: Provide more time for additional dissemination events and impactful, useful products
- Next steps/implementation: Include component to implement one or two of the recommendations

Audience Q&A



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THANK YOU

Speaker Contact Info

- Danielle Tedesco: dtedesco@usaid.gov
 - Catalina Correa: ccorrea@usaid.gov
 - Mónica Rincón: mrincon@usaid.gov
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To learning more about the LAC Environment CCC Learning Group:

- Visit our website on [Biodiversity Links CCC Learning](#)
- email Christy Johnson: chrjohnson@usaid.gov
- email Jenny Baca: jbaca@enviroincentives.com

