



Zambia. All act as source and transit countries for a range of wildlife products, from ivory and rhino horn to pangolin scales and hippo teeth.

Institutional and governance weak spots, such as gaps in responsibility and weak jurisdiction, have allowed criminal networks to pay public officials and others to turn a blind eye, provide inside information or otherwise abuse their position. A lack of criminal enforcement measures and investigations has heightened the problem. To stand any chance of combating illegal wildlife trade, corruption needs to be tackled head on. This involves donor agencies as well as law enforcement bodies, international organisations and NGOs working alongside wildlife management authorities.

The complex legal status of many wildlife products, and the unclear status of many species, also needs clearing up. An electronic recordkeeping or a universal permit database would also help.

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## References

OECD (2018), Strengthening Governance and Reducing Corruption Risks to Tackle Illegal Wildlife Trade: Lessons from East and Southern Africa, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264306509-en> <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264306509>