

**12th IACC**  
**WORKSHOP SHORT REPORT FORM**  
**FOR RAPPORTEURS**

**Number and title** of workshop: Workshop 3.1 - Corruption Hotspots: Understanding the Effects of Corruption in Environmentally Sensitive World Regions

**Date and time** of workshop: 15 Nov 2006, 14:00-16:30

**Moderator:** Andrea Figari, Transparency International-Secretariat

**Rapporteur:** Aled Williams, Transparency International-Secretariat

**Panellists:**

1. Tamuna Karosanidze – TI Georgia
2. G. Jasper Cumme, III – Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia
3. Kenneth Rosenbaum – Forest Integrity Network

**Main Issues Covered**

- Corruption's impact on entire ecosystems in environmentally sensitive regions (or "biodiversity hotspots")
- Corruption and the environment in Georgia as part of the Caucasus biodiversity hotspot – link with political and economic reforms
- Corruption and the environment in Liberia as part of the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot – link between illegal logging, human rights abuse and conflict
- Corruption as an enabler of environmental harm
- Political incentives versus economic incentives and the environment
- Land tenure and its impact on environmental degradation

**Main Outcomes**

- Discussion of environmental impact of corruption in Georgia, Liberia and other environmentally sensitive countries/regions
- Presentation of case-studies on corruption and environmental degradation in Georgia and Liberia, plus a broader presentation on the link between corruption and environmental harm
- Identification of the value and, also, some challenges of addressing corruption's impact on entire ecosystems
- Identification of specific actions to be taken by the anti-corruption and conservationist communities following the workshop

**Main Outputs**

- 4 x powerpoint presentations, including case-studies on Georgia and Liberia
- List of participants
- 3 x breakout group reports
- Workshop report

**Recommendations, Follow-up Actions**

- The current gap between the environmentalist and anti-corruption communities needs to be bridged
- There is a need for better data on the environmental, economic and social costs of corruption in relation to the environment
- Investigative reporting may be a useful approach to gathering hard data on these issues
- A stakeholder analysis may be useful in mapping out the various actors involved in corruption and the environment

**Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)**

- In Liberia during Charles Taylor's regime: a particular forestry company was his personal „Pepper Bush“ i.e. something precious that should not be touched – the company was a personal source of income for Taylor with revenues going directly to his pocket
- Its difficult to make generalisations about forest ownership – in some circumstances, local ownership can be very detrimental. In others, government ownership can lead to massive corruption and environmental degradation
- There is no one-size-fits all solution to communicating the significance of this issue. There is a need to fit messages to the audience.

**Signed** Aled Williams 15 Nov 2006