

Terms of reference

Consultancy: Political economy analysis of illegal wildlife trade in Ecuador

About the Basel Institute on Governance

The Basel Institute on Governance is an international and independent not-for-profit organisation working worldwide with the public and private sectors to counter corruption and other financial crimes and to improve the quality of governance. As a Swiss foundation with headquarters in Basel, the Basel Institute maintains field operations in Africa, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America. The Basel Institute is an Associated Institute of the University of Basel.

About the project

As part of our multidisciplinary Green Corruption programme, the Basel Institute is implementing a two-year project titled Targeting Regional Anti-Corruption Efforts and Financial Investigations to Counter Wildlife Trafficking in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

The project aims to disrupt the profitability of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in these countries and turn it into a high-risk, low-reward activity for criminals. It uses financial investigation and asset recovery tools to increase the risk to wildlife criminals of being caught and having their assets confiscated. It simultaneously seeks to increase the cost of engaging in wildlife crime by reducing opportunities for corruption.

Assignment

The Basel Institute's Public Governance team is conducting a political economy analysis of government efforts to combat IWT. The analysis is topically focused on political factors shaping IWT-related law enforcement outcomes. It will:

- Analyse factors associated with IWT-related corruption, including an assessment of the current political context, corruption in the IWT sphere and related risks.
- Examine national anti-corruption and IWT enforcement systems and assess state capabilities and implementation gaps which create opportunities for corruption.

- Tease out the key political economy factors shaping the operating environment of the counter-IWT investigative–prosecutorial chain.
- Highlight opportunities and constraints for reducing corruption in IWT investigations and prosecutions.

The political economy analysis ultimately seeks to bolster government enforcement efforts to combat IWT in Ecuador. The analysis is informed by a review of documents and interviews with key stakeholders in Ecuador.

Activities and timeline

Data collection and analysis: December 2022–March 2023

- Identify key stakeholders from civil society, media, academia and the public sector that work on different aspects of promoting the fight against IWT (December 2022).
- Set up and conduct semi-structured interviews (in person if possible and alternatively online) on political economy factors that impact IWT investigations and prosecutions outcomes (December 2022 – January 2023).
- Prepare interview reports (preferably in English or alternatively in Spanish) and flag key opportunities and constraints for reducing corruption in IWT investigations and prosecutions (January – February 2023).
- Provide feedback and further inputs to draft iterations of the full report (February – March 2023).

Time allocated

- The foreseen level of effort across the research project is 15 days.

Reporting

The Consultant will report to the lead researcher, Dr Saba Kassa, Senior Public Governance Specialist.

Qualifications

- Master's degree in political science, public administration, environmental science or other related fields.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional work experience with/in organisations aiming to strengthen efforts to prevent corruption, IWT or environmental crime. Experience with working in law enforcement agencies is a plus.

- Strong expertise in conducting political economy analysis and in-depth knowledge of the political and socio-economic landscape of Ecuador.
- Strong proficiency in English and Spanish.

Applications

Interested applicants should submit an expression of interest of not more than three pages, outlining: (i) their relevant experience for the assignment; (ii) the steps and activities they would undertake in order to execute the assignment; (iii) and any clarifications they would wish to seek from the Basel Institute prior to executing the assignment.

A CV should be provided separately and limited to two pages.

Please submit applications to proposal@baselgovernance.org no later than 18:00 CET on 7 December 2022. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For questions about the consultancy, please email Saba Kassa (saba.kassa@baselgovernance.org).