

Managing seized and confiscated assets



Key steps for
asset recovery
practitioners

*Based on Quick Guide 41
by Rita Simões*

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ASSET MANAGEMENT LIFECYCLE

1

**PRE-SEIZURE
PLANNING**



2

**TAKING
CUSTODY**



3

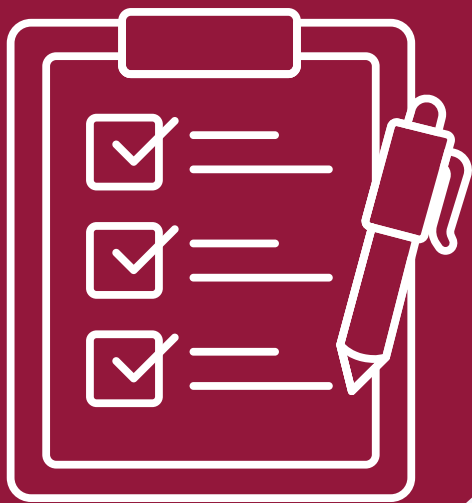
**MANAGING
SEIZED ASSETS**



4

**DISPOSING OF
CONFISCATED ASSETS**





1

Pre-seizure planning

Plan before action

- Determine ownership, legal issues and liabilities
- Estimate storage, security and maintenance costs
- Plan custody strategy
- Determine responsible agency/individual



2

Taking custody

Secure control

- Use appropriate restraint or seizure measures
- Take physical or legal control of assets
- Document condition, value and chain of custody
- Ensure secure transport and storage



3

Managing seized assets

Maintain and protect value

- Regularly monitor and revalue assets
- Take preventative action for perishable or volatile assets
- Allow interim use or sale where appropriate
- Ensure transparency and legal compliance



4

Disposing of confiscated assets

Recover proceeds or repurpose

- Sell, reuse or destroy assets lawfully
- Follow clear disposal policies
- Allocate proceeds to victim compensation or public funds
- Prioritise transparency, fairness and public benefit

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SERIES 41



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Senior Specialist, Asset Recovery

News headlines often focus on the seizure or confiscation of illicit assets, such as cash, property or cryptoassets involved in money laundering, sanctions violations or other crimes. Less visible is the asset management process, i.e. maintaining, safeguarding and disposing of those assets. But their proper management is critical. Without it, vehicles can fall into disrepair, property may be damaged or looted and stocks or cryptoassets can lose value or be stolen.

Robust asset management can ensure that assets are handled legally and fairly during legal proceedings. It can also lead to the full value of the assets being recovered, lower public costs and greater trust in a country's asset recovery and wider justice system.

Quick Guide to managing seized and confiscated assets by Rita Simões



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