

*a knock on the door,
"You have 3 seconds..."*

Ivory Coast, Nov 11, 2004

You life abroad can be changed suddenly when rescuers arrive – if the do – and tell you have 3 seconds to leave...

Violence erupted late last year in Ivory Coast, once West Africa's most peaceful and prosperous nation.

French businesses were destroyed, schools burned, and homes attacked.

Indonesia, Colombia, Mexico, tropical Africa

The best of nature...
perhaps not the safest of
destinations...



This slide shows the 3 most biologically diverse countries. I've been lucky enough to have lived in 2 and traveled extensively in the 3rd.

I've only been an armchair traveler to Africa—but have a lot of respect for those who have faced its frustrations and occasional danger.

Today, we are going to discuss political risks and how to deal with corruption.



Risk Assessment and Ethics in International Conservation Projects

Hank Hammatt
Susan Mikota DVM
Elephant Care
International

**This entire presentation with
speaker notes is available at
our website elephantcare.org
Go to What's New, Jan. 05
Look for this title**

1. Anticipating & minimizing risks
2. Project planning - ethics/corruption
3. Achieving conservation goals



**We don't have all the answers, but
we do have some guidelines for you.**

Situations we faced

- 🐘 Indonesia - 9/11>
 - Invasion of Afghanistan
 - Bali bombing
 - Iraq
- 🐘 SARS / travel?
- 🐘 Immigration harassment
 - Threat of jail or extortion
 - First plane out – destination not important



Post-tsunami
Banda Aceh,
home of the
Indonesian
vet we hired.

Susan and I spent 2 of the last 5 years living in Sumatra, Indonesia, working to improve the healthcare of elephants.

Indonesia has the world's largest population of Muslims. We were there during 9/11...and afterwards...We were never threatened ...

Later, when SARS hit, there was a lot of fear, no one knew how it would evolve.. People were dying and no one knew how the disease was transmitted. **Countries were banning travelers** from SE Asia...Belize, where we have a rainforest 2nd home was one such country – would we ever be allowed back there?

As our work in Indonesia progressed we discovered that 85% of the elephants captured by the government had died. We determined why and reported to the government what had occurred and how it could be prevented... the response - 3 Immigration officials showed up at our house... on the day our passports were in Jakarta being renewed...not good...downtown for questions, ...again,.. again w written response and passports...Our WWF-Indonesia sponsor suggested we leave, so we drove 15 hours to another city and took the first plane out – destination not important

Remember: U.S. Consuls cannot get you out of jail

- You are subject to local laws, and
- U.S. treatment of “non-combatant terrorists” could affect how you will be treated



**... in a foreign country,
you are subject to their laws**

Travel Warnings: Dept. of State

“Defer non-essential travel to Indonesia...”

If you believed all of the warnings, you would seldom travel...



The State Department does issue warnings—but, often this is after an incident. Then they may go overboard with warnings. According to the State Department, we would never have been able to go to Indonesia...

Likewise, you would never go to many of the countries where people in conservation must work,

Keep Your Perspectives

- Despite 9/11 and Iraq, etc., we were never threatened by the people of Indonesia
- Terrorists attacks in U.S.: NY, Oklahoma
- Crime everywhere
- but, don't be complacent – abrupt changes
 - Violence: Rwanda, Ivory Coast
 - Epidemics: flu, SARS

In my time abroad, I seldom had problems, except one irritating US Immigration official having a bad day...called me a passport mutilator...

Crime is everywhere, and the U.S. has some of the highest crime rates in the world.

In 5 years living in the French Quarter of New Orleans, I lost track of the number of criminal incidents I was involved in. (20 plus)

In the 1918 flu epidemic ~ 675,000 people died in one year in the U.S., compare this to 500,000 dead from AIDS in 23 yrs (U.S.)

Internet Resources

- *U.S. Department of State*
- *CIA World Fact Book*
- *Ex-pat forums*
- *English-language websites*
 - *Newspapers*
 - *Human rights organizations*

These and more links are available at our website
www.elephantcare.org

just click on the What's New link at our home page

Risk Assessment and Ethics in International Conservation Projects

These are Internet resources to help you prepare.

It will be rare to find your personal safety threatened, but you should be prepared.

Basic tips

- Find a good tropical medicine doctor
- Carry color copy of passport and visas
- Fake “muggers” wallet
- Keep cash stash, field records, and actual passport hidden in a safe place
- Diaper bag for computer / camera
- Split baggage w. a friend – ½ each

Ethics & Conservation



We're going to shift now from risks to how corruption affects international conservation efforts.

Like a cicada that molts, conservation must shed corruption

When we are in the field,

- **Good science is not enough**
- **We must demonstrate high ethical standards**
 - **We should lead by example, but**
 - **We need a plan.**

Ethical situations we faced

- 🐼 *Shipment detained by customs*
- 🐼 *Euthanasia issues*
- 🐼 *A big donation – with “strings”*
- 🐼 *A major “conservation project” – bribing the Minister of the Environment!*



When we moved to Indonesia, our entire shipment, was detained by customs, and for 2 years we lived out of 4 suitcases.

In another case, a European NGO offered us \$70,000 in grants, **if** we would work under someone with whom we had no confidence. We turned them down—even though we desperately needed the money. Another donor learned of this and provided the funds.

More disturbing was an invitation for Susan and I to head a major conservation project. We withdrew when the originator of the project decided to bribe both a leading businessman and the Minister of the Environment. If there is time we can discuss that situation further during the discussion period.

When in Rome...

Is Transparency International imposing a "first world" view of corruption...

NO! The secret numbered Swiss bank account was not a feature of traditional African society...

Transparency International (TI) is “the leading global non-governmental organisation (NGO) devoted to combating corruption”. Its mission is to *create change* towards a world free of corruption. Their Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranks countries in terms of experts' perception of corruption. The ranking is from 0-10 with 10 being the least corrupt.

So Much Money...So Little Good...

\$232 Billion to Indonesia

\$35 Billion – Suharto

28 Billion to Nigeria

5 Billion – Sani Abacha

10 Billion to Congo/Zaire

5 Billion – Mobutu Sese Seko



Financial Times, 13 October 2004

International Loans by the IMF and World Bank between 1970 and 2002, and wealth accumulated by the leaders.

Standard & Poor Risk Assessment

- 80-100% Colombia, Iraq and Libya
- > 60 % Egypt & Syria
- 50% Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, and Turkey



...these figures show the likelihood of a company losing its entire investment within five years

If businesses cannot survive in these countries, what chance do non-profits have?

Before we invest donors money, we should carefully consider the likelihood of success... and of failure.

Corruption in Indonesia

In 1998, the World Bank estimated that "at least 20-30 percent of Government of Indonesia ...funds were diverted to staff and politicians".



One Indonesian scandal involved local politicians giving large sums of money to journalists, even buying them houses, supposedly to “raise the level of journalism”.

Corruption in Kenya

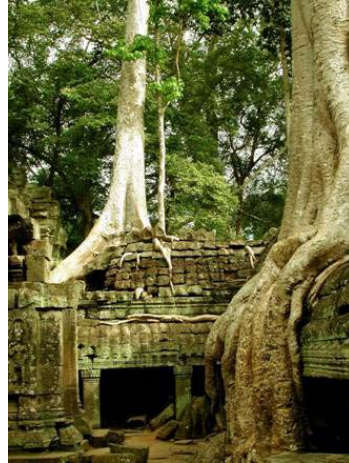
The government paid \$400 million, or 20% of the 1993 budget to encourage exports of gold and diamonds - though Kenya has little gold and no diamonds.



Transparency International also ranks Kenya consistently as among the most corrupt countries.

Illegal logging in Cambodia

... bribes estimated at \$200 million for 1997:
> 13 times the \$15 million in government revenue from legal forest operations that year.



UNDUE INFLUENCE: CORRUPTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Cambodia is not ranked (by TI)— because there are not enough sources of information.

Low salaries for civil servants—those responsible for the routine management of natural resources and enforcement of regulations— increase the motivation to earn additional income through corrupt activities

Bribes and other gifts and favors may form a significant percentage of a public employee's total income in societies where civil service pay is low

Hiring and job advancement, for instance, may be determined more by connections and payoffs than by merit, reducing the professionalism and competence of the bureaucracy and strengthening the cycle of corruption.

One African government eliminated the wages of its customs officials for six months, assuming they would earn sufficient income through bribes to support themselves.

Biodiversity & Corruption

 Argentina Bangladesh Cameroon Ecuador India Indonesia	Kenya Myanmar Nigeria Papua New Guinea 	Philippines Russia Tanzania Uganda Venezuela Vietnam 
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Countries < 3 of 10

If we look at all of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, only nine countries, rank 5 or above. Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Chile, Japan, Uruguay, Botswana, Taiwan, and Malaysia

Biodiversity based on 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species threatened species present and threatened species endemic per country

Other African countries are not here only because many of them lack the biodiversity found elsewhere.

U.S. or the U.K. firms guilty of corruption comprise half of those **ineligible** to receive World Bank contracts

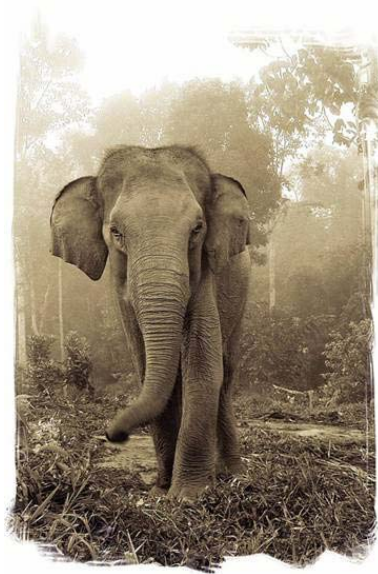


But, the problems are not just with less developed countries...

The developed world is also part of the problem

November 2002 (World Bank 2003)

A U.S. NGO is under
the microscope for
ethical issues
involving land deals
with board members
and trustees



**Major conservation organizations
have also been accused.**

To wrap this up...
We do have suggestions...



*how can we protect
what is left...
...before it is gone*

***Given that most biodiversity
is in developing and often corrupt countries,***

**Dilemma for conservationists-
How to succeed where others fail – without
giving up our ethics.**

Ethical dilemma – you decide?

Donate life-saving drugs to a war-torn country

Drivers must bribe guerrillas or get shot.

Your company prohibits bribes.

What do you do?

Examples like this indicates why it is important for organizations to provide guiding policies on ethics.

Ethical Dilemma - Bribes for Land?

You're invited to direct a new non-profit in Africa. The government has agreed to "donate" land for protection... if you pay "tokens of appreciation" to a businessman and the Minister of the Environment. You decide.

Examples like this indicates why it is important for organizations to provide guiding policies on ethics.

Ethical Dilemma Decision Making Guidelines

- ends-based - Do what produces the greatest good for the greatest number
- rule-based - Follow only the principle that you want everyone else to follow
- care-based - Do to others what you would like them to do to you

**Philosophers have debated
these scenarios for centuries.**

There is not always a single “right” answer?

**If everyone in the world followed the rule of action I
am following, that would that create the greatest
good.**

Or...

**Stick to your principles and let the consequential
chips fall where they may. You cannot determine
the "greatest good" without speculating on
probable futures**

Ethical Decision-Making Model

1. Is it legal?
2. Is it permitted by code of conduct?
3. Is it a true ethical dilemma?
4. How do you personally feel?



A true ethical dilemma is when there is conflict between two “rights”

Business Principles for Countering Bribery

- Prohibit bribery in any form, direct or indirect
- Demonstrate commitment to combat bribery
- Improve standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability



**This is one set of principles
from Transparency International**

**The Business Principles for Countering Bribery,
published on 9 December 2002, are an initiative
facilitated by Transparency International and Social
Accountability International.**

To battle corruption...

- Be fully transparent;
- Help people understand the costs of corruption that they bear;
- Be creative in helping people work out solutions to “insurmountable” dilemmas;
- Be systematic and resolute in gaining compliance

Used with Permission of Michael Brown
President, Innovative Resources Management
A presentation to the ABCG/WWF, January 13, 2005

***As we close, now is the
time to wake up
for a few more hints***

***These ideas are from Michael Brown of
Innovative Resources Management***

**Be systematic and resolute in
following through in compliance
concerning commitments.**

Implications for Conservation

- Low level corruption may **not** be less of a threat to biodiversity conservation than corruption at the top.
- The masses need reduced corruption in their daily lives if they are to support conservation objectives.
- A broad-based coalition involving civil society, government, and the media is essential.

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**Brown also suggests that...
Civil society
mobilized into committees
can fight petty corruption**

Ethics: Internet resources

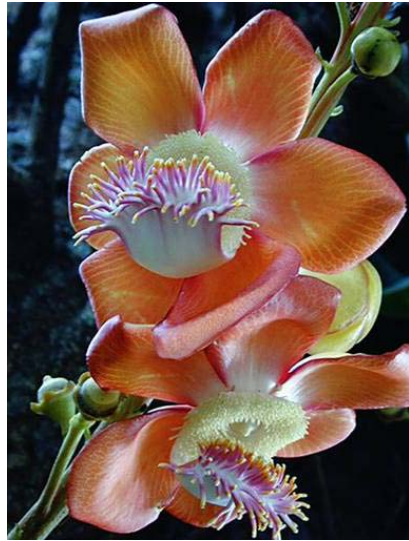
- 🏠 Transparency International
- 🏠 Institute for Global Ethics
- 🏠 CORIS: Corruption Online Research & Information Resource
- 🏠 Global Witness
- 🏠 The World Bank



Establish ethical policies in advance
Links to these can be found at our website
www.elephantcare.org

***How Good People
Make Tough
Choices***

**Resolving the Dilemmas
of Ethical Living
by Rushworth M.
Kidder**



**This book seems to be an excellent resource for the
philosophical perspectives...
You can access the entire first chapter through the
links at our website referred to earlier**

Who are Giraffes?

- People who stick their necks out for social or environmental issues – **despite the risks**
- They are recognized by the Giraffe Project



They're men, women and kids, and they're from many races, religions and backgrounds—all sticking their necks out for the common good. They're truck drivers, students, retirees, artists, waitresses, doctors, homemakers, business people and teachers. Since 1982 the Giraffe Project has found over 900 of them, then told their stories in national and local media, and in schools—inspiring others to take on the challenges they see. Giraffes are working on many different issues, from poverty to gang violence to environmental pollution. One element that's common to all of them is that they lead meaningful lives. Win, lose or draw they're living fully, giving their all. They know why they get up in the morning, why they do things that may be scary and difficult but must be done if their cause is to be served. <http://www.giraffe.org/heroes.html>



**If we don't fight Corruption—
Can we save the
Environment?**

If corrupt officials are not promptly prosecuted, do not lose their jobs and do not face social stigma when exposed, this will breed more criminal wrongdoing and nurture a culture of impunity that leads to more corruption.

If citizens are largely unaware of the enormous social and economic costs of corruption, as well as what can be feasibly done, they are less likely to fight the problem.

It is important to keep the public informed so they will have the courage to act. Otherwise, they feel powerless to resist corruption.

We must set the example.