



Recovering stolen assets

What should and can be done?

International Centre for Asset Recovery

استعادة الأصول المسروقة

ما الذي يجب وما يمكن فعله ؟

المركز الدولي لاسترداد الموجودات

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Independent nonprofit Swiss foundation

30 staff
16 nationalities
1 HQ (Basel)
7 field offices
Established 2005
Case advice
Training
Legal and policy advice
Knowledge development
Global advocacy

- ✓ Deterrent of corruption
- ✓ Builds capacity
- ✓ Strengthens the rule of law
- ✓ Dealing with the past
- ✓ Builds Trust in Government
- ✓ Disallows impunity

ICAR – Where we work (2020)

Multi-agency
Single agency
Embedded
Staff numbers
Fly-in -fly-out
Training, case work and policy advice
Policy advice and training
Case work and policy advice
Training and case work
Case work only
Training only

Asset recovery – It is difficult

- ✓ Capacity is weak, even in highly advanced economies
- ✓ Agencies work in silos and are in competition
- ✓ International cooperation is a labyrinth
- ✓ Criminals are clever and rich
- ✓ Criminals are protected by non-cooperative jurisdictions
- ✓ Politics are almost always interfering
- ✓ Success is very slow

Asset recovery – Understand (and say) why

• Resources for development

What more can be done domestically?

- ✓ Manage expectations
- ✓ Small can be beautiful
- ✓ Look internationally and domestically
- ✓ Cases must be legally very solid

Recovering stolen assets

- ✓ Use informal avenues and intelligence sharing
- ✓ Only accept high-quality technical assistance
- ✓ Explore new tools but do not expect golden bullets

What more must be done domestically?

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- ✓ Countries – especially financial centers! – must implement all UNCAC Provisions
- ✓ Financial centers must boost MLA capacity
- ✓ MLA systems must be harmonized and simplified
- ✓ Requesting states must acknowledge their share in the blame
- ✓ Countries must introduce innovation in asset recovery (NCBF)
- ✓ International partners must provide better technical assistance