

# Annual Report **2021**



Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative  
The World Bank • UNODC

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**StAR**—the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative—is a partnership between the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that supports international efforts to end safe havens for corrupt funds. StAR works with developing countries and financial centers to prevent the laundering of the proceeds of corruption and to facilitate more systematic and timely return of stolen assets.

This work is a product of the staff of The World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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# Foreword

While the beginning of 2021 was still shrouded in COVID mist, with all of us firmly ensconced behind our screens, its ending saw a gradual re-opening to the outside world. For StAR, that meant being able to plan the very occasional on-site mission and seeing people face-to-face again. Without a doubt the highlight in that regard was the StAR Day at the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Sharm-El Sheikh in December. What a joy to again meet, greet and listen to people—live and unmediated.

Much like the year before, 2021 was a year of virtual engagement and honing our IT skills to deliver courses and workshops to countries. As more technical assistance providers move into the asset recovery field, both from public and private sector backgrounds, we are conscious of the need to articulate even more clearly what we can do, that others cannot. We are, thus, moving towards a model where we offer bespoke content on quite specific topics (e.g. beneficial ownership, income and asset disclosure, certain areas of financial investigations and prosecution) but leave the more foundational subject matter to others. Also, by leveraging the convening power of StAR's partner institutions, we are able to bring together experts from many different backgrounds and countries to provide jurisdictional-specific information to countries that are considering international cooperation. Finally, we have made modest progress towards engaging with financial centers, which so often function as the destination or transit points for stolen assets, but more efforts will need to be made in that space in the years ahead.

On the knowledge front, we continue to make strides in implementing the recommendations from the StAR external evaluation from 2019 which endorsed a recalibration towards more studies, handbooks and written work to guide practitioners, inform the global debate on asset recovery and advocate for change on international standards. In the past year, new works were published, new topics broached, and we expect this renewed focus on knowledge work to bear fruit in the coming year as well. The recent global debate on sanctions and their enforcement has brought a lot of StAR topics to the forefront and underscored the relevance of our work, in essence making clear how important it is to have timely access to reliable information on who owns and controls what. StAR also played an important role in the debate on strengthening the global standard on beneficial ownership (adopted in early 2022) and aims to continue doing so going forward.

So it is with a sharply focused lens, giving countries the specific skills they need, and aiming to (re)establish ourselves as the knowledge hub for all asset recovery-related matters, that we have moved into 2022. We hope you will let us know where we can help or need to make our voices heard and continue to engage with us to build the momentum necessary to return the proceeds of corruption back to their rightful owners, the citizens of the victim jurisdictions. We are counting on your support.

—Emile van der Does de Willebois  
on behalf of the StAR team



# The Year in Review

Much like the year before it, 2021 saw the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, along with most of the world, restricted from travel and in-person engagement. Despite these barriers, where requested, StAR maintained its commitment toward the facilitation of asset recovery. The team had a productive year across its three workstreams covering country engagement, knowledge development and policy work. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, StAR recalibrated its work to focus more on knowledge products, online trainings and virtual events whilst providing technical assistance where possible.

**18**

countries received StAR assistance in 2021

**5**

countries adopted new laws or amendments related to asset recovery with StAR support

**3**

countries receiving StAR assistance opened or concluded at least one new AR case involving proceeds of corruption

**24**

global policy events contributed to by StAR

**9**

countries received technical assistance on legislative reform

**2**

countries received StAR support to improve domestic coordination processes

**5**

countries received StAR support to improve international coordination processes

**1,800+**

people trained globally by StAR

**4**

knowledge products published by StAR

## NEW YORK

StAR co-organized and participated in three side-events to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Against Corruption (UNGASS) related to non-conviction based asset forfeiture, responsibilities of gatekeepers and quantifying damages for victims of corruption

## ECUADOR

Over three months, StAR delivered multiple trainings to practitioners from the Attorney General's Office on financial investigations and asset recovery

## SWITZERLAND

In collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department on Foreign Affairs and ICAR, StAR co-organized and facilitated the XIth edition of the Lausanne Seminar with a special focus on public-private collaborations to support asset recovery

## UKRAINE

StAR reviewed draft legislation on sanctioning false statements in asset declarations and analyzed the draft legislation on voluntary tax compliance

## MOLDOVA

StAR provided recommendations on the asset declaration law which was enacted in October

## MONGOLIA

StAR provided input to the final draft of the Mutual Legal Assistance Guidance document

## ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

StAR organized the StAR Day at the 9th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC (CoSP) with panels on beneficial ownership transparency and various other asset recovery topics, and the launch of the StAR publication *Orders without Borders: Direct Enforcement of Foreign Restraint and Confiscation Decisions*



## SEYCHELLES

StAR conducted multiple workshops on topics ranging from international standards on beneficial ownership to asset management and financial investigations

# Country Engagements

Leveraging the institutional clout and expertise of the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has always been a hallmark of StAR's work in order to provide technical support to requesting jurisdictions. Its engagement ranges from assistance on legislative reform and regulatory frameworks and capacity building, to facilitation with case management and inter-agency cooperation related to asset recovery efforts.

## Legislative Assistance

In 2021, we provided technical assistance to 9 countries on proposed amendments and draft bills  and 5 countries adopted new legislation 



### **MONGOLIA**

Provided input on the final draft of the Mutual Legal Assistance Guidance which assists Mongolian authorities in the provision and transmission of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with a focus on the recovery of stolen assets



### **MOLDOVA**

Advised the government on strengthening the asset declaration law which was enacted in October. Additionally, provided analysis and recommendations on draft legislation on the functioning and supervision of the judiciary



### **ECUADOR**

Supplied advice on non-conviction based asset forfeiture legislation adopted in 2021



### **SUDAN**

Approved a new anti-corruption law on the establishment of the Independent Commission to combat corruption and recover public funds, for which StAR provided comments as part of a legislative review process in 2020



### PANAMA

Provided support to the authorities on the risk assessment of legal entities and beneficial ownership-related risks through a newly developed World Bank national risk assessment tool



### UZBEKISTAN

Advised on the drafting of interagency instructions on financial investigations which were adopted in May and provided input on the good practices in dealing with obstacles associated with bank secrecy in financial investigations that was considered in the process of amending the Bank Secrecy Law



### ETHIOPIA

Advised on the proposed whistleblower protection and award legislation designed to support the asset recovery effort



### GUINEA

Provided advice on the implementation of the asset declaration system adopted with StAR support in 2020



### UKRAINE

Reviewed draft legislation on sanctioning false statements in asset declarations and analyzed the draft legislation on voluntary tax compliance with a focus on safeguards for the AML/CFT system and anti-corruption regime

## Building National Capacity

StAR continued to use online platforms to enable capacity building courses given the ongoing inability to travel due to COVID-19. In 2021, the team successfully conducted 26 trainings; 25 organized and conducted by the StAR team and 1 regional training supported by StAR:



### ETHIOPIA

Several workshops on topics ranging from mutual legal assistance to use of open source intelligence in financial investigations for officials at the Attorney General's Office and the Directorate of Asset Recovery



### MONGOLIA

StAR conducted another year of virtual trainings for Mongolian authorities, this time focused on the use of civil proceedings for asset recovery, introduction to cryptocurrency and the dark web, financial investigations and prosecutorial strategy courses



### ZIMBABWE

StAR delivered trainings on financial investigations and prosecutorial strategies for asset recovery



### IRAQ

In collaboration with the United Kingdom's Central Authority and the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC), StAR organized a workshop on asset recovery focused on legal avenues to recover stolen assets and international cooperation, specifically with relation to Iraqi and British systems of information sharing



### SEYCHELLES

A two-day workshop on beneficial ownership transparency with experts from EUROPOL, INTERPOL, the Bailiwick of Jersey, Cayman Islands and the Slovak Republic to support Seychelles authorities in the implementation of their new 2020 law on beneficial ownership, followed by multiple trainings on asset management, prosecutorial strategies and financial investigations



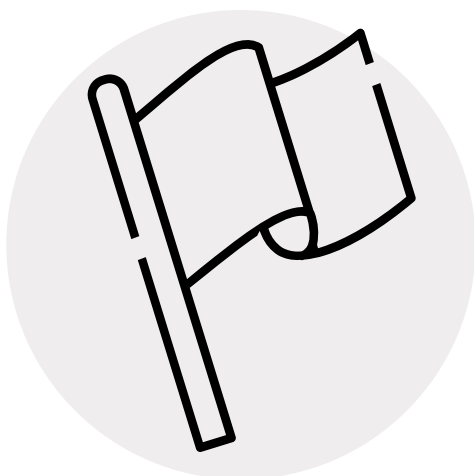
### ECUADOR

Over the course of three months, StAR conducted several webinars with officials from the Attorney General's Office on financial investigations and asset recovery notably on the development of investigation plans, the identification of beneficial owners, the development of financial profiles and informal and formal international cooperation



### PARAGUAY

Multiple capacity building sessions on international cooperation and financial investigations with contributions by experts from Panama and Brazil



### COLOMBIA

Two training sessions for officials from the central authorities regarding different mechanisms for asset recovery in corruption cases and the use of civil proceedings to recover stolen assets



### ROMANIA

A training session for law enforcement officials and prosecutors on how to access open corporate information from government registries and how to determine the ultimate beneficial owner of hidden assets



### SOUTH AFRICA

A two-day workshop on strengthening the verification of asset declarations with a focus on good practices for the use of automated risk analysis of asset declarations, with practical exercises on designing red-flags for triggering verification specific to the South African context



### INDIA

A month-long training to the Directorate of Enforcement on international investigations and cooperation featuring multiple speakers from various (financial center) jurisdictions who shared insights on how to exchange information informally and through mutual legal assistance requests



### COSTA RICA

StAR organized specialized sessions for experts from Colombia, Brazil, Panama, Bolivia and Peru to share good practices on asset recovery for prosecutors responsible for investigating corruption, money laundering and organized crime



### UKRAINE

A workshop for the National Anti-Corruption Agency introducing the concept of cryptocurrency and how to investigate it and trace transactions



### KAZAKHSTAN

A training session on the fundamentals of financial investigations for senior level investigators and managers of the Anti-Corruption Agency

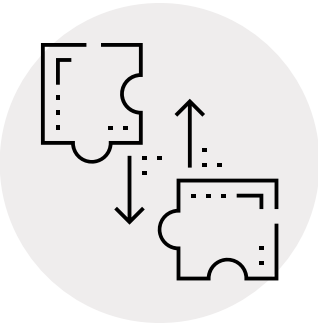


### CARIFORUM

Training on the risk assessment of legal persons, legal arrangements and beneficial ownership-related risks where StAR, as part of a larger World Bank team, presented the new World Bank national risk assessment module, the requirements under the FATF recommendations and tools and resources to help prepare governments on how to map legal persons and arrangements

# Facilitating Domestic Coordination

Seamless domestic coordination between relevant agencies continues to be a challenge; it tends to take considerable time to align different authorities to work together effectively. StAR assists requesting countries to develop a clear, well-defined structure to enable domestic coordination, ensuring there is a lead agency, and that all agencies with relevant intelligence or evidence can share such information (under sufficient safeguards). In 2021, StAR provided technical support to two countries to improve domestic coordination on asset recovery measures



## COLOMBIA

Provided support on the design of an asset recovery strategy which includes a robust domestic coordination mechanism



## ECUADOR

Facilitated a workshop with the Inter-Institutional Group of Focal points for Asset Recovery (GEIRA) to discuss standard operating procedures

# Case Support

Knowing how to approach countries when trying to follow a money trail or obtain evidence is far from straightforward. With its contacts in financial centers and its reputation as a trusted facilitator, StAR has always been uniquely situated to assist countries with international cooperation through establishing direct contact with relevant jurisdictions. Technical support in this area can range from informal introductions through bilateral side-meetings at global events such as the CoSP, to facilitating channels for formal cooperation. In 2021, StAR supported 5 countries in their efforts to progress international cooperation on existing asset recovery cases.



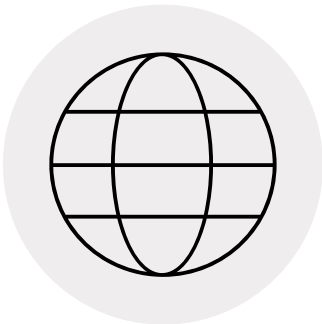
## UKRAINE



## MONGOLIA



## ROMANIA



## COSTA RICA

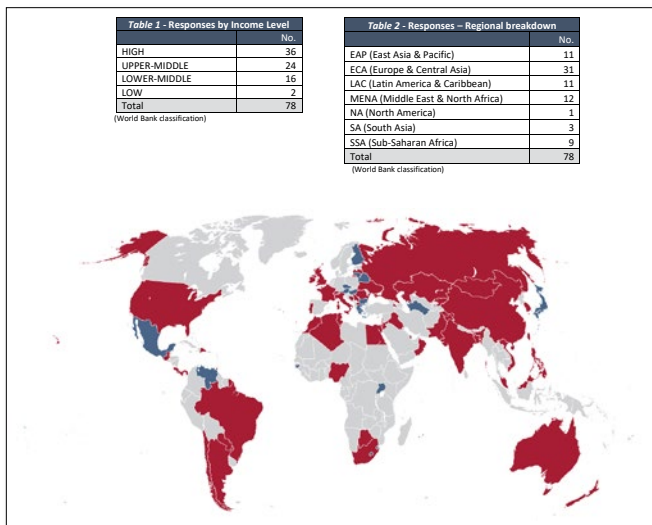
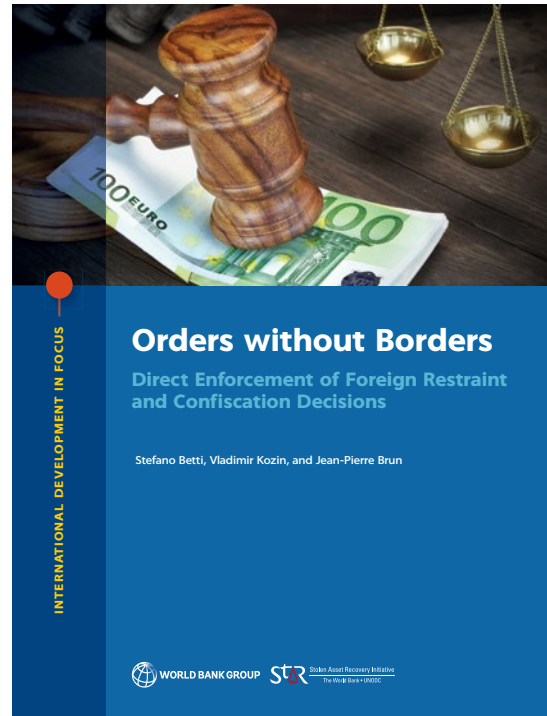


## COLOMBIA

# Knowledge & Innovation

In line with recommendations from StAR's 2019 external review, and a shift precipitated by the necessity for remote work, StAR spent a significant part of 2021 on the development of relevant publications, technical guides and reports for asset recovery practitioners.

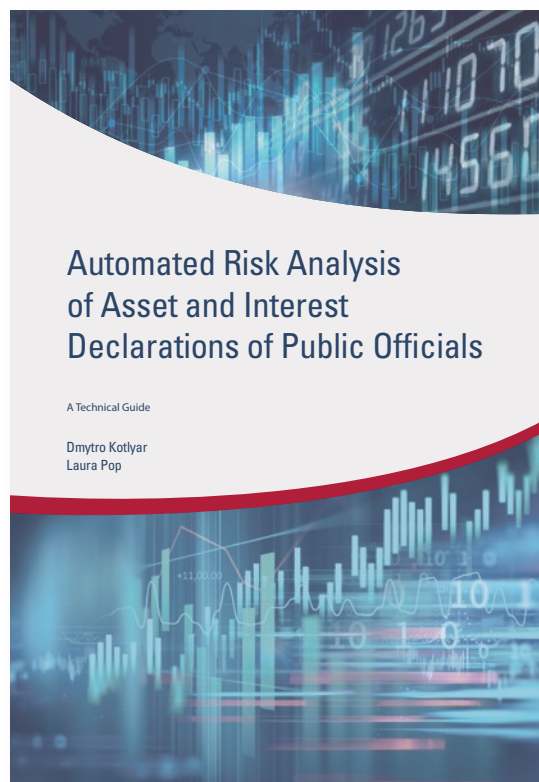
In December, the CoSP provided the platform to launch some of StAR's latest publications and reports. During the StAR Day, the team formally launched **Orders without Borders: Direct Enforcement of Foreign Restraint and Confiscation Decisions**. This book offers an in-depth analysis of the concept of the direct enforcement of foreign restraint and confiscation orders, a crucial step in the process of asset recovery, including existing legal approaches and related challenges. The study analyzes 31 jurisdictions with different legal systems and offers suggestions on a series of practical steps and good practices to either introduce direct enforcement mechanism or to improve it, in case such a system is already in place.



*States actively engaged in cross-border asset recovery efforts from the StAR Conference Room Paper*

At the CoSP, the StAR team also presented the findings on its data collection study on international asset recovery efforts in corruption cases. Based on data collected from country authorities on their efforts to freeze, confiscate, and return proceeds of corruption, a conference room paper titled **Mapping international recoveries and returns of stolen assets under UNCAC: an insight into the practice of cross-border repatriation of proceeds of corruption over the past 10 years** was prepared by StAR and discussed during the conference with participants.

As more countries use electronic systems to collect, analyze and publish asset declarations, and StAR continues to provide technical assistance on the topic, there is a need for guidance for practitioners who deal with the establishment and operation of asset declaration systems at the national level. In August, StAR published **Automated Risk Analysis of Asset and Interest Declarations of Public Officials**, a technical guide that provides advice on how to organize the process of automated risk analysis, what steps to take to develop the risk analysis framework, and addresses issues of integration with external data sources.



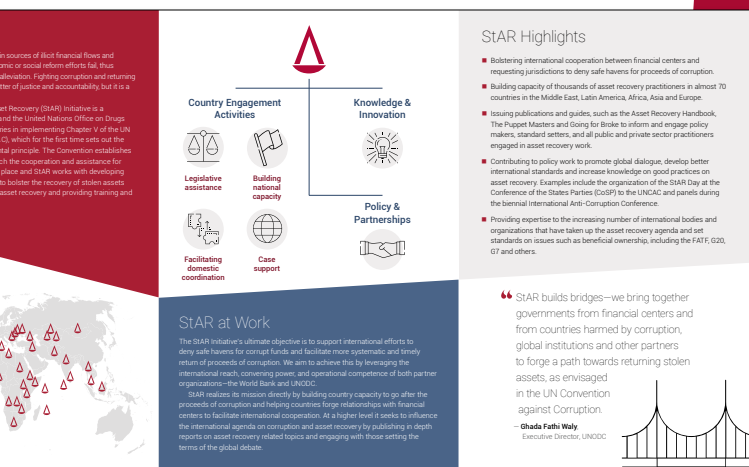
Through 2020 and the first half of 2021, StAR participated in the “WEF Gatekeeper Taskforce” that was convened by the World Economic Forum’s Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI) and the Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption, along with leaders in finance, investment, real estate, corporate law, and the art and antiquities markets. The cross-sectoral task force of industry leaders met with the aim to develop a value-based, self-regulatory framework for gatekeepers to adhere to in order to combat illicit financial flows. **The Role and Responsibilities of Gatekeepers in the Fight against Illicit Financial Flows: A Unifying Framework** consists of five core practices and is intended to realize three fundamental principles within and across gatekeeping industries worldwide to unite a broad array of similarly situated private sector professionals and serve as a mechanism for complementing, reinforcing, or enhancing existing regulatory measures. The framework was launched at a side event to the UNGASS against corruption in June.





## StAR Brochure

The team presented a new [StAR Brochure](#) at the CoSP and the StAR Day, which outlines the Initiative's objectives, approach, and work-streams in the years to come, and highlights key achievements over the past 15 years.



## Forthcoming Publications

StAR is currently working on a number of research and knowledge projects including:

- The StAR team, together with the International Bar Association (IBA), will publish a report on the role and standing of corruption victims in proceedings and how to determine damages;
- Our team is working with the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN) on a guide for investigating high-value assets;
- StAR is working on a paper on issues linked to legal professional privilege and how it affects investigators' ability to ascertain beneficial ownership and discusses measures to prevent the abuse of legal privilege;
- In collaboration with the Institute of Austrian and International Tax Law, StAR will soon publish a report on the need to improve inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement agencies and tax authorities;
- StAR will issue a new publication on the use of non-conviction based asset forfeiture;
- StAR is working on a report on the possible conflicts between respect for human rights and asset recovery, and how to resolve them;
- The conference paper on StAR's data collection exercise developed for the CoSP will be launched as a StAR publication on international asset recovery efforts in corruption cases.

# Policy & Partnerships

Asset recovery continues to be high on the international agenda. Increased attention is being paid to specific issues such as beneficial ownership transparency and asset declaration mechanisms. StAR has always aimed to influence the policy debate by providing quantifiable facts on actual progress and challenges, assisting with and monitoring the development of relevant international standards and ensuring that asset recovery and anti-corruption remain a priority at relevant international settings.

## UNCAC and UN-Related

At the **2nd UNODC-Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP) Virtual Dialogue** on the illicit financial flows behind corruption, StAR presented on the UN Convention against Corruption and measures that can be adopted by States parties to address bribery in procurement, including through the use of new technologies.

Following the decision during the 2020 G20 Summit for the establishment of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE), StAR participated in the **First Expert Group Meeting (EGM)** in March. The GlobE Network was launched in June during the **UNGASS** against corruption. Side events focusing on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption ran in parallel to the three-day main event. During the three day event, StAR co-organized three side events:

- In collaboration with the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR), an analysis of the use of non-conviction based asset forfeiture, including presentation of case studies, challenges and good practices;
- Co-organized with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Transparency International (TI) and the Asset Recovery Subcommittee of the International Bar Association, StAR contributed to the ongoing debate on the compensation of victims of corruption, by addressing the types of damages resulting from corruption, the quantification of such damages; the identification of the victims of corruption; and which parties have legal standing before the courts in different legal systems;
- In partnership with the government of the Slovak Republic, the Italian G20 Presidency, the WEF PACI and



*Virtual dialogue on illicit financial flows in Chile, September 2021*



*Discussing compensation for victims of corruption at UNGASS, June 2021*

Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption, StAR promoted an innovative approach to enlisting 'gatekeepers' from highly regulated to nearly unregulated sectors to abide by the same core set of value-based practices in order to fight corruption.



*UNODC Executive Director, Ghada Waly at the the CoSP9, December 2021*

At the 15th Session of the **UNCAC Working Group on Asset Recovery (ARWG)**, StAR presented an overview of the Initiative's workstreams and achievements over the prior year. The biennial **CoSP** is one of the largest intergovernmental practitioner events on anti-corruption. The 9th CoSP was held in Egypt in December and as before, featured a full StAR Day with panels dedicated to understanding and addressing the asset recovery process. The Conference garnered over 2,100 in-person and virtual participants from governments, regional and inter-governmental organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. The StAR team attended an event in-person for the first time since the pandemic began and the experience provided an important reminder of the need for personal interaction and engagement. During the five-day conference eight resolutions were adopted, and StAR's

work on asset recovery was welcomed and recognized in multiple resolutions in particular in the areas of beneficial ownership transparency and data collection on asset recovery and returns. The main resolution to address asset recovery was on "Enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of proceeds of crime." Among other measures, the resolution asked UNODC and the StAR Initiative to make available online information on States parties that maintain a registry or alternate mechanism on beneficial ownership information, together with details on how to make requests for such information. This new mandate reinforces the importance of the work that the StAR Initiative has been doing to support countries in enhancing beneficial ownership transparency and raising awareness of beneficial ownership risks to combat money laundering.

## StAR Day

In recent years, the StAR Day has become an established part of the CoSP, with our team and partners coordinating a full day of sessions and dialogue on asset recovery challenges, good practices and innovation, and new tools and knowledge products. The hybrid format of this StAR day allowed for dozens of in-person participants and over 300 online participants to join the sessions. The day started with a *High-Level Session on the State of Play for Asset Recovery*, in which officials from various countries reflected on the importance of international cooperation, the challenges of bridging the gap between commitments and concrete actions and the importance of transparency, including beneficial ownership, as a measure of accountability and tool against corruption.

This was followed by a panel on [Orders without Borders: The Direct Enforcement of Foreign Restraint and Confiscation Decisions](#) in which speakers provided an overview of an eponymous StAR publication and of current approaches used by different jurisdictions. It also analyzed issues related to confiscation orders derived from non-conviction based forfeiture mechanisms with a focus on Latin America.

The third session, *Data and Transparency in Asset Recovery and Returns*, provided participants with an update on StAR's data collection study on international asset recovery efforts in corruption and presented initial findings published in a conference paper for the event. This discussion also highlighted Nigeria's experience in collecting data on asset recovery and returns and the new initiatives launched by the [United Kingdom to release official statistical information on assets restrained, recovered and returned under the UNCAC](#).

Kicking off the afternoon sessions, in *Ending the Shell*

*Game—Why Fighting Corruption and Going After Dirty Money Relies on Global Beneficial Ownership Transparency*, we addressed several issues related to beneficial ownership in the context of cross-border corruption investigations and asset recovery and aimed to de-mystify elements of the CoSP resolution on "enhancing the use of beneficial ownership information to facilitate the identification, recovery and return of stolen assets".

The StAR team also presented a new publication under development during the session on *Standing as Victim of Corruption and Damages* detailing the avenues available to victims to obtain compensation for damages from corruption and who has standing to demand such damages in different legal systems. The session featured experts from Costa Rica, the International Bar Association Anti-Corruption Asset Recovery Subcommittee and civil society represented by the UNCAC Coalition.

The last session, *Taxing Corruption: How Can Anti-Corruption and Tax Authorities Work Together?* highlighted experiences from France and Uganda on how cooperation between tax and law enforcement authorities can mutually support each other's work to strengthen tax collection and the recovery of the proceeds of corruption, and the team presented a study currently under development on this topic.

On the margins of the CoSP the StAR team, in coordination with authorities from various client countries, assisted in the organization of bilateral meetings to discuss specific requests for cooperation. The goal was to establish contacts between authorities from "requesting" and "requested" countries, to help them better understand the requirements for assistance, and to overcome barriers in asset recovery in specific cases.



## Global and Regional Multilateral Organizations

In addition to StAR's role at UN and UNCAC-related events which inform international standards for anti-corruption and asset recovery, and its engagement with inter-agency networks which seek to enhance coordination and implementation of good practices at a regional level, StAR team members are frequently invited to global events hosted by multilateral and civil society organizations to provide their technical expertise on matters related to asset recovery. Last year, StAR was involved in many high-level events and sought to underscore, among other topics, the importance of action on beneficial ownership transparency, curbing illicit financial flows, global trends in cryptocurrency and dark web investigations, and the importance of asset declaration systems and how to implement them, at the following events:

- **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group** on the importance of mutual legal assistance and strengthening cooperation in asset recovery and providing feedback to the **European Union** on a new proposed Asset Recovery Directive;
- Presented on organized crime and asset recovery at the event to commemorate the **40th Anniversary of the Criminal Appeal Chamber of the Costa Rican Supreme Court of Justice**;



*International Conference on Asset Recovery in Iraq, September 2021*

- International Conference on Asset Recovery organized by the **Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Research, the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, the Iraqi Ministry of Justice and the Iraqi Integrity Commission**, attended by the Iraqi Prime Minister;
- **G7 Expert Group Workshops** on International Cooperation and Transparency in Asset Recovery highlighting StAR's work on both topics and the benefits of better cooperation and transparency on asset returns;
- **4th Meeting of the Punta del Este Declaration (OECD Global Forum)** on the topic of effectively mobilizing resources from automatic exchanges of information;
- Panelists for topics ranging from inter-agency cooperation, unexplained wealth orders and beneficial ownership at the Inter-Agency Cooperation Meeting hosted by the **Institute of Austrian and International Tax Law**;
- Workshop on Parallel Financial Investigations arranged by the **Organizations of American States (OAS)**;
- Webinar on investigation and prosecution in money laundering cases related to predicate crimes or illicit financial flows organized by the **UAE Judicial Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice**;
- Panelist at the **World Wildlife Fund, Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC)** event on the potential of beneficial ownership transparency and its implications for natural resources;
- At the International Forum on Kleptocracy and Illicit Financial Flows hosted by the **National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU)**, StAR discussed the increase in use of cryptocurrency for corruption and the challenges and opportunities in Ukraine's experience with asset tracing, freezing, recovery and management;

- A hybrid forum organized by the **Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority** on the International Anti-Corruption Day where StAR discussed the use of financial disclosure to curb corruption;
- A meeting convened by the **Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) Corruption Prevention Community of Practice** to discuss StAR's new publication on automated risk analysis of asset declarations;
- Throughout 2021, StAR continued to be heavily involved in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Policy Development Group Intersessional Meetings** and the **FATF Project Group Meetings** as part of the review of FATF's global standard on beneficial ownership, Recommendation 24, which was adopted by the FATF plenary in March 2022.

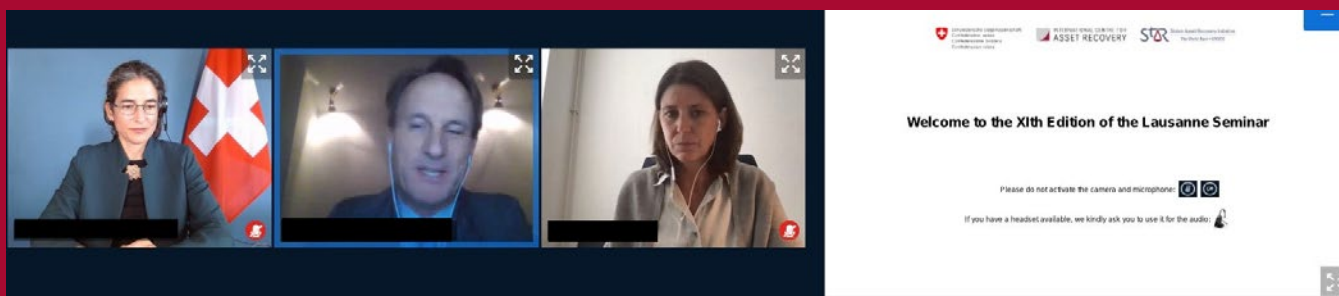
## Lausanne Seminar XI

Since 2001, the Lausanne Process has consisted of seminars organized by Switzerland and partner organizations to bring together practitioners from around the world to discuss asset recovery challenges and ways to overcome them. The Lausanne Seminars provide the opportunity for knowledge sharing and network building between requesting and requested jurisdictions. In 2014, StAR, the ICAR and Switzerland worked together to produce a set of international good practices on the topic of asset recovery titled *Guidelines for the Efficient Recovery of Stolen Assets*.

In 2021, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Directorate of International Law, ICAR and StAR co-organized the 11th Lausanne Seminar which focused on the need for cooperation between public

authorities and private financial institutions to aid asset recovery. The sessions highlighted where such cooperation already exists and the benefits associated with such mechanisms, and remaining challenges that need to be addressed. The StAR team was involved in the role of speakers and rapporteurs to multiple plenary and breakout panels which covered topics ranging from innovations in cross-border information sharing and public-private partnerships to achieve asset recovery to the benefits of inter-agency cooperation between financial intelligence and asset recovery practitioners.

The Lausanne Seminar was followed by the publication of a summary report titled *Boosting Co-operation in Asset Recovery* by the three co-organizers.



# Management, Staffing & Funding

The StAR program relies on the expertise of an international team of professional and support staff based in its Secretariat in Washington DC, at UNODC's Corruption and Economic Crime Branch in Vienna, and the UNODC field office in Bogota, as well as expert consultants worldwide. StAR team members work on a full or part time basis on StAR activities, as well as on the World Bank's AML/CFT activities, on illicit financial flows, and on UNODC's work in the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism and technical assistance activities.

The StAR Secretariat is based in the Financial Stability and Integrity Global Practice of the World Bank and comprises World Bank and UNODC staff and consultants. The core team handles the Initiative's workplans and management of the StAR workplan and strategy related to the Initiative, with the World Bank team members also overseeing management of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

## Website

July–Dec 2021\*



**43,464**

page views

**8,192**

file downloads

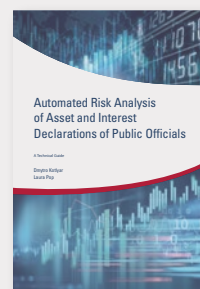
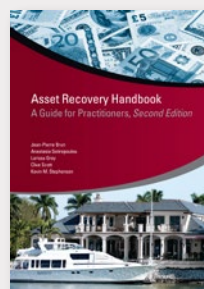
**15,964**

unique visitors

## Top 5 countries

- United States
- United Kingdom
- India
- Canada
- Philippines

## Top 3 downloads



**StAR Asset  
Recovery Watch  
Database file**

## Twitter

2021 statistics



**600+**

new followers

**100,000+**

impressions

**22,900+**

visitors

\*Website analytics began on July 9th, 2021. The 6 month statistics show a sizeable and steady increase in traffic in comparison to StAR's old website

# StAR Initiative Secretariat Team

**Emile Van Der Does De Willebois**  
 Coordinator  
 Lead Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank

**Sol Krause**  
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**Keesook Viehweg**  
 Program Assistant  
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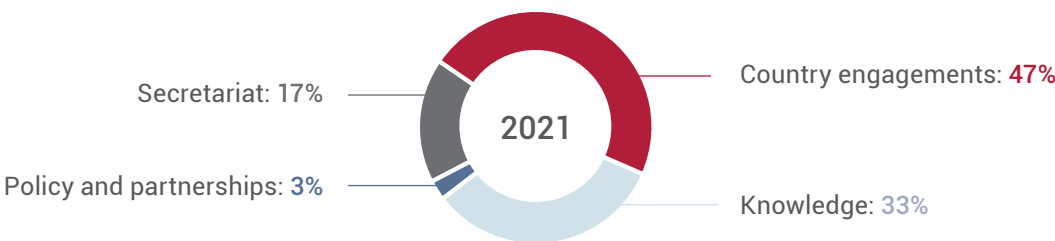
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## Funding

The majority of StAR's funding derives from the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and from the World Bank global engagement budget. The MDTF covers a portion of fixed costs and a range of variable costs (activities, travel, staff time and consultants), and production of StAR material. There is also a separate project budget for UNODC's contribution to the work of StAR which covers the costs of seconded UNODC staff, other UNODC staff time and selected activities. In 2021, the MDTF had contributions from Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, while Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the United States (new funding in 2021 for work on asset recovery and beneficial ownership) contributed to the UNODC budget for StAR activities.

In the coming year, StAR will be closing its current MDTF and establishing a fresh Multi-Donor Trust Fund with a new governance structure in line with changes made to Trust Fund policies at the World Bank in 2021. A new Steering Committee will provide overall guidance to the StAR team and its work in the management of the new MDTF. It will be chaired by the World Bank and include a member from each donor partner to the Trust Fund.

### Disbursement Breakdown per Work Pillar



Total expenditures from the MDTF: \$1,052,906

Our sincere gratitude goes out to our donors



Government of Luxembourg\*; Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)\*; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); U.S. State Department Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)\*; Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)\*

\*Contribution only through UNODC



Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative

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