

1. Fact Sheet

Project title	Switzerland, Basel: International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) Phase V of core contribution (2014-2016)	SDC priority theme Other priority theme (i.e. anti-corruption / asset recovery)
Project no.	7F-02582.05	Country or region: Global
<p>Lead (max. 5 lines) The <i>International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR)</i> is an independent not-for-profit competence center in asset recovery with a mission to support developing countries to recover stolen assets. SDC has supported ICAR since its creation in 2006 given its international importance as a strategic partner in asset recovery. The Asset Recovery agenda is of high political importance to Switzerland because of its pioneering role in taking legal measures against stolen assets deposited in Swiss banks and in returning them to their rightful owners.</p>		
<p>Context (general and related to relevant area): <i>Corruption</i> is damaging to societies and hinders development. Its impact is particularly damaging for developing countries which lose billions of dollars every year through corrupt acts such as bribery, misappropriation or other abuse of functions. <i>Stolen assets</i> are often laundered through the global financial system. Switzerland has a fundamental interest in <i>preventing</i> corruption in developing countries, <i>ensuring</i> that assets of criminal origin are not deposited in the finance centers of Switzerland, and <i>detecting</i> stolen assets and <i>repatriating</i> them.</p>		<p>Overall goal: The overall goal of this 5th core contribution to ICAR will be an <i>increased momentum and capacity</i> in developing and transition countries to <i>successfully handle asset recovery processes</i>.</p>
<p>Key results and insights from previous phases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed unique hands-on, country-focused and needs-driven <i>training programs</i> in financial investigation, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery carried out in more than 30 countries worldwide. • ICAR has devoted substantial time in advising countries in the investigation and prosecution of concrete international corruption and <i>money laundering cases with slow success</i>. Reviewing the results, it has been noted that casework is complex due to sensitivity and dependence on the actual political will of a country requesting assistance. Hence, more time is needed to get tangible results. • Important <i>Asset Recovery Support Tools</i> for facilitating the management and implementation of asset recovery processes have been designed (e.g. Asset Recovery Intelligence Service, ARIS). • <i>Policy dialogue on international and national level</i>: ICAR has become an internationally well-respected <i>NGO that widely shares its experience</i>. <p><i>Conclusion</i>: Further concentrate efforts on specific topics and try to integrate activities in order to enhance overall impact.</p>		<p>Outcomes (objectives) of the phase</p> <p>The outcome of this project is an <i>increase in the number of asset recovery cases</i> being pursued by developing or transition countries and an <i>increased number of trained professionals</i> who will be able to use their knowledge to successfully handle asset recovery requests.</p> <p>It is also envisaged to design <i>Asset Recovery tools with an enhanced emphasis on the anti-money laundering component of asset recovery</i> which may include a more targeted cooperation with Financial Intelligence Units or respective regional or international inter-agency networks.</p> <p>This outcome objective is achieved through four lines of action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Training 2) Legal and Case Consultancy 3) Asset Recovery Support Tools 4) Contribution to the global policy dialogue and to international standard setting.
<p>Key outputs of the phase: Case work: In 8 countries where ICAR is focusing its technical assistance (ICAR partner countries), the assistance provided by ICAR's legal and case consultancy team has led:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ To at least 10 Mutual Legal Assistance (MLAs) being submitted, ➢ To identify up to CHF 100 million illegal assets, ➢ To contribute to the freezing of up to CHF 50 million 		<p>Target group: Criminal Police Offices, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, financial institutes of around 30 intervention countries (e.g. Bhutan, Indonesia, Romania, Colombia, Peru, West Africa (with Interpol), regional Middle East and North Africa (MENA), possibly Myanmar or Mekong Delta countries (specialized on extractive industries)</p>

<p>illegal assets.</p> <p>Training services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5-6 national training programs (totaling 150 participants) and one regional training program (25 participants) per year. ➤ Two multi-phased “train-the-trainer” programs and elaborate 1-2 training manuals. ➤ Develop an “e-learning” course. <p>Global policy dialogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish best practices on the use of the asset recovery process. ➤ 2 or 3 Asset Recovery related publications produced per year on emerging trends and practices. ➤ To establish best international practice in the return and management of stolen assets. <p>Asset Recovery Support Tools: Launch of revised full Asset Recovery Information System (ARIS), and approx. 30-40 asset recovery relevant institutions are using ARIS on a regular basis for their investigative work.</p>	
<p>Contract partner/s Basel Institute on Governance (BIG)</p>	<p>Coordination / synergies with other actors:</p> <p><i>Program level:</i> The proposed program has <i>synergies</i> with SDC’s Bhutan desk (TA for Corruption Agency), Directorate of Political Affairs (Sectorial Foreign Policies Division with respect to the UN Convention Against Corruption) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (with regard to Anti-Money Laundering technical assistance programs).</p> <p><i>Swiss level:</i> This project will <i>complement the work</i> of other parts of the Swiss Administration such as the Swiss Directorate of International Law, the Department of Justice or the Office of the Attorney General to recover assets in Switzerland which have been stolen from developing countries.</p> <p><i>International level:</i> ICAR works closely with UNODC, World Bank, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), IMF, OECD, G8 Arab Forum on Asset Recovery (AFAR), United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Network (PNI), OSCE, UNDP, Interpol and the EU.</p>
<p>Start date of 1st phase according to SAP 1 July 2006</p>	<p>Other partners UK-DFID, Liechtenstein Project income through direct mandates (e.g. IMF, UNODC Egypt, Indonesia)</p>
<p>Start of phase: from 01.01.2014</p>	<p>End of phase: to 31.12.2016</p>
<p>SDC Budget of phase (2014-2016) CHF 3'250'000.-</p>	<p>Total SDC expenses since 1st phase CHF 7'578'523.-</p>
<p>Total budget of 5th phase (2014-2016) including local partners and external contributions CHF 11 million (estimate)</p>	<p>Estimated budget for the duration of the whole intervention: CHF 10.83 million (long-term support to ICAR envisaged)</p>