

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820455803321
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Titolo	Few and far : the hard facts on stolen asset recovery // Larissa Gray, Kjetil Hansen, Pranvera Recica-Kirkbride, Linnea Mills
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC : , : International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank : , : OECD, , [2014] 2014
ISBN	1-4648-0275-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 76 pages) : illustrations, maps ; ; 26 cm
Collana	Stolen asset recovery (StAR) series
Disciplina	363.259323091724
Soggetti	Corruption - Developing countries
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters.
Sommario/riassunto	Corruption has a devastating impact on developing and transition countries, with estimates of 20 billion to 40 billion per year stolen by public officials, a figure equivalent to 20 to 40 percent of flows of official development assistance. The return of the proceeds of corruption--asset recovery--can have a significant development impact. Returns can be used directly for development purposes, such as improvements in the health and education sectors and reintegration of displaced persons, with additional benefits of improved international cooperation and enhanced capacity of law enforcement an