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Uncovered

A good reputation can be an important asset. But a squeaky-clean facade may mask shenanigans and even crime. Greed and the quest for profit can lead businesses astray; their sense of responsibility cannot be assumed. Laws and their enforcement are required to combat corruption and the exploitation of humans and nature. The gripping documentaries in the series *Uncovered* draw back the veil on stories some would rather keep hidden.

01 Blood Treasures – The Antiquities Trade and Terror

Although the export of historical artefacts is banned in most countries, thousands of new pieces enter the market every year. Demand from wealthy countries motivates looters to raid historical sites and thereby inflict great damage. Many antique dealers are not concerned about where their goods come from – even if the sellers may have blood on their hands.

02 Poisonous Profits – Sending Toxic Waste to Ghana HD

Up to 50 million tonnes of electronic waste is produced every year around the world. Exporting this hazardous garbage is illegal in many countries. But unscrupulous scrap dealers declare it as second-hand goods in working order and export it to Ghana, where it is then dumped. Toxic heavy metals contaminate humans, water and the earth – while the merchants earn a fortune.

03 Help for Haiti – What Has Become of the Donated Billions?

It is thought that Haiti received 10 billion dollars in international reconstruction aid following the devastating earthquake of 2010. But so far, only a fraction of this money has been paid out. Many Haitians still live in catastrophic conditions, often as a result of distribution problems, corruption and disputes among aid organisations.

04 Going for Gold – An Exploitative and Damaging Business

The price of gold has been soaring. But major gold belts in developing countries – such as Cajamarca in Peru – are often among the world's poorest regions. The mining process contaminates and dessicates the earth and makes people sick. The only ones to profit from the gold price boom are mining companies and speculators.

05 The Reptile Mafia – Species in Danger in the Rain Forest HD

The worldwide demand for exotic reptiles is increasing rapidly, so there is a lot of money to be made. The legal breeding of these animals is often difficult and expensive. Profit margins are much greater if the creatures are captured in the wild – despite the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Many reptile populations are facing extinction.

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06 Buying the Truth – The Role of Money in Genetic Engineering HD

The scientists Árpád Pusztai and Ignacio Chapela have made significant discoveries in the field of genetic engineering. But their reputations have come under attack because their findings led them to question its advantages. Powerful vested interests in research and industry see their investments threatened by the work of independent-minded scientists.

07 Gas Flaring – Profit at the Expense of the Environment HD

The thirst for oil has fatal consequences: In nations such as Russia and Nigeria, oil concerns burn off the natural gas that escapes as they pump crude, because harnessing it for use would not be cost-effective. The practice not only destroys vast amounts of a precious resource, it also inflicts massive damage on the environment.

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08 Goldman Sachs – A Bank Controlling the World?

In recent years, US investment bank Goldman Sachs has become a symbol of intemperance and unbridled speculation in the financial sector. The bank conducted highly speculative deals to profit from the financial crisis and was saved from bankruptcy by dint of its top-level political connections.

09 WWF – Environmentalists on the Wrong Side?

The WWF is one of the world's most influential environmental protection groups, with high-level contacts to politics and industry. The organization believes it can salvage the world's last intact ecosystems through its partnerships with the energy and agriculture industries, but critics of its approach have serious doubts.

10 Human Trafficking – Exploited Forestry Workers in the Czech Republic HD

In the Czech Republic more than 2,000 people, most of them from Vietnam, were systematically deceived and exploited as forestry workers. The authorities took no action, and the shocking case only came to light through the engagement of committed individuals.

11 The Second-Hand Clothing Scam – The Impact of Charitable Donations HD

Millions of people in industrialised nations donate their used clothing to charity, assuming the items are then sent to poor people around the world. But most of the clothing is actually sold at a profit. More than 60 percent ends up in Africa, where local markets are swamped by the cheap clothing, bringing the continent's textile industry to its knees.

12 The Philip Morris Story – Strategies of a Tobacco Company HD

Tobacco giant Philip Morris is one of the world's largest cigarette manufacturers. But its immense profits largely depend on the exploitation of African tobacco farmers and a strategy of concealment regarding the true health impact of smoking.

13 Lingering Death – Somalia and the Toxic Waste Mafia HD

For years now, toxic waste has been dumped in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Somalia. It's a highly lucrative business for foreign profiteers, but people living in this bitterly poor country are suffering the health effects of the illegal dumping.

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