


Assessment of the Sales Status of Smuggled and Abandoned Goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province from 2009 to 2019

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to investigate the sales status of smuggled and abandoned goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province from 2009 to 2019. In terms of purpose, the research is applied, and it was conducted using a descriptive-survey method. The issue of smuggled and abandoned goods creates major challenges in the ongoing implementation of government programs, including economic, social, law enforcement, and other related matters. Therefore, this issue necessitates a comprehensive examination. Although it is not possible in this applied study to address all dimensions of goods smuggling due to the broad scope of the subject, an attempt has been made to examine various aspects of the issue within the available scope of the study. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the results obtained from the research sample, and generally, there was no need to employ inferential statistics. The findings of this study indicated that the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties acts as an institutional arm of the government in supporting domestic production. However, in some cases, through the distribution of smuggled and abandoned goods, it may become an anti-competitive institution. The adoption of modern approaches toward the exportation or destruction of such goods appears to resolve this contradiction.

Keywords: Smuggled goods, abandoned goods, Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties, Hormozgan Province

Introduction

The phenomenon of illicit trade in goods and abandoned commodities has become one of the most complex challenges confronting governments, customs administrations, and economic regulatory institutions in contemporary economies. The expansion of globalization, increasing integration of markets, rapid growth of informal commercial networks, and the emergence of transnational criminal organizations have intensified the circulation of smuggled goods across national borders. Smuggling not only undermines domestic production and formal economic structures but also creates extensive social, legal, and security consequences for governments and societies. In many developing and transit-oriented economies, smuggled goods enter local markets through informal and illegal channels, thereby disrupting pricing systems, reducing government revenues, weakening



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domestic industries, and facilitating the growth of underground economies (1-3). In addition to economic harm, illicit trade networks are increasingly linked to organized crime, corruption, terrorism financing, and money laundering activities, which further complicate governmental efforts to regulate trade and preserve economic stability (4-6). Consequently, the management, collection, storage, valuation, and sale of smuggled and abandoned goods have become critical components of state economic governance and anti-smuggling policy frameworks.

Recent scholarly discussions have emphasized that illicit trade is no longer limited to traditional contraband commodities but increasingly includes cultural property, antiquities, wildlife products, industrial equipment, and consumer goods circulating through sophisticated transnational supply chains (7-9). The expansion of shadow supply chains and hidden commercial networks has allowed criminal actors to integrate illicit products into formal markets while simultaneously concealing the origin and ownership of goods (1). Contemporary criminal economies frequently exploit weaknesses in customs systems, free trade zones, and regulatory institutions to facilitate illegal importation and exportation processes (2). Studies have shown that illicit trafficking networks operate through complex intermediaries, auction houses, informal dealers, and transnational brokerage systems that legitimize or disguise illegal commercial activities (10, 11). Furthermore, scholarly facilitation and market legitimization mechanisms may unintentionally provide a veneer of legality to illicitly traded commodities, thereby increasing the resilience and sustainability of underground markets (7). These developments indicate that governments require increasingly sophisticated institutional responses to monitor, confiscate, and manage illicit goods within national territories.

One of the major dimensions of illicit trade relates to the management of confiscated and abandoned goods after their seizure by governmental authorities. The accumulation of confiscated goods imposes significant administrative, logistical, and financial burdens on public institutions responsible for collection and disposal processes. Organizations tasked with managing confiscated properties must evaluate whether goods should be sold, destroyed, exported, redistributed, or otherwise removed from circulation. These decisions require balancing economic efficiency, legal obligations, public interest, market stability, and support for domestic production. In many countries, state agencies responsible for the management of confiscated assets play a dual role: on the one hand, they contribute to state revenues through the sale of seized goods; on the other hand, they must prevent the re-entry of harmful or anti-competitive products into domestic markets (3, 8). The complexity of this institutional role becomes particularly evident in regions characterized by extensive maritime trade, border transit, and commercial import-export activity.

Hormozgan Province occupies a strategic position within the Iranian economy due to its geographic location along the Persian Gulf and its proximity to major maritime trade routes. The province hosts significant ports, customs centers, and commercial transit corridors, making it one of the primary entry points for imported goods into the country. At the same time, these geographic and commercial advantages expose the province to elevated risks of smuggling activities and informal trade practices. The Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties in Hormozgan Province therefore performs a highly significant role in controlling, managing, and disposing of confiscated and abandoned goods. Through the collection, storage, valuation, and sale of goods seized by customs authorities and judicial institutions, the organization acts as an operational arm of the government in regulating illicit trade flows and protecting the formal economy. However, the organization's activities also raise important managerial and economic questions regarding the impact of confiscated-goods distribution on domestic competition, consumer markets, and industrial production.

The literature on illicit trafficking demonstrates that criminal markets often evolve in response to state regulatory measures and economic incentives. Research on antiquities trafficking and cultural-property crimes has illustrated how illicit networks adapt to legal restrictions by creating alternative commercial channels and laundering mechanisms (12, 13). Studies have further shown that organized criminal actors employ increasingly advanced technological and financial instruments to facilitate illicit transactions across borders (14). The emergence of artificial intelligence and digital knowledge-graph systems has enabled researchers to identify hidden trafficking networks and map relationships among actors involved in illegal trade activities (14). Similarly, interdisciplinary analyses of black-market dynamics reveal that high-value commodities often circulate through interconnected transnational systems involving brokers, collectors, transporters, and financial intermediaries (15). These findings highlight the need for institutional monitoring systems capable of tracking both the physical movement and economic value of confiscated goods over time.

Another important issue concerns the relationship between illicit trade and corruption within governmental and administrative systems. Weak institutional oversight, insufficient transparency, and ineffective regulatory enforcement may facilitate the persistence of smuggling networks and reduce the effectiveness of anti-trafficking policies. Research conducted in developing economies demonstrates that corruption and administrative inefficiency significantly undermine cultural heritage management and anti-smuggling strategies (16). Likewise, criminal enterprises frequently exploit institutional fragmentation and legal loopholes to evade confiscation measures and continue operating within formal commercial environments (17). In some cases, illicit goods are laundered into legitimate markets through complex legal and financial mechanisms that obscure their criminal origins (8). Therefore, examining the operational performance of institutions responsible for confiscated-property management can provide valuable insights into broader state capacities for economic regulation and criminal control.

The illicit trade in commodities has also become increasingly associated with geopolitical instability, armed conflict, and wartime economies. Contemporary research concerning wartime trafficking in Ukraine demonstrates that periods of political instability create substantial opportunities for illicit commercial activity and the expansion of underground markets (18). Similar patterns have been observed in studies examining the financing of terrorism through trafficking in antiquities and cultural property (4, 5). Criminal organizations often exploit unstable economic environments, weakened border controls, and disrupted institutional systems to increase the circulation of illicit goods. Such findings indicate that effective management of confiscated and abandoned properties constitutes not only an economic necessity but also a security and governance imperative. Consequently, the role of governmental organizations responsible for the collection and sale of state-owned properties becomes increasingly important in safeguarding economic order and limiting the influence of organized criminal networks.

Studies addressing legal and institutional responses to illicit trafficking have emphasized the importance of international cooperation, legal harmonization, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in addressing transnational smuggling challenges (17, 19). Legal frameworks governing sovereign immunity, ownership rights, and cross-border confiscation processes have evolved significantly in response to the growing complexity of international illicit trade (20). At the same time, scholars have questioned exaggerated narratives concerning the scale of illicit antiquities trafficking and stressed the necessity of evidence-based policy approaches grounded in empirical data rather than political rhetoric (12, 13). This perspective underscores the importance of localized empirical investigations examining the actual volume, value, and operational characteristics of confiscated goods within specific institutional contexts. Without accurate statistical and descriptive analyses, policymakers may be

unable to develop effective regulatory strategies capable of balancing economic efficiency and anti-smuggling objectives.

From a managerial perspective, the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties represents an essential institution within the broader governmental framework of economic regulation and asset management. The organization's effectiveness depends on multiple factors, including transparency in valuation procedures, efficiency in auction and sales mechanisms, capacity for storage and logistics management, and coordination with customs, judicial, and law-enforcement agencies. The increasing diversity of confiscated goods—from household appliances and machinery to chemicals, textiles, and luxury commodities—creates additional operational challenges requiring adaptive management approaches. Furthermore, the organization must reconcile competing priorities: generating public revenue, protecting domestic industries, preventing re-entry of illicit goods into informal markets, and ensuring compliance with legal standards. The study of sales trends, commodity composition, and valuation patterns over time can therefore contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of institutional performance in the field of confiscated-property management.

Despite the growing international literature concerning illicit trade, organized crime, and cultural-property trafficking, relatively limited empirical attention has been devoted to the operational dynamics of organizations responsible for managing confiscated and abandoned goods within regional governmental structures. Most existing studies focus either on international trafficking networks, criminal financing mechanisms, or legal dimensions of illicit trade, while fewer studies investigate the descriptive trends of confiscated-goods management within specific provinces or administrative contexts. In Iran, particularly in strategically important provinces such as Hormozgan, understanding the operational status of confiscated-property organizations is essential for evaluating anti-smuggling policies and identifying managerial challenges associated with the storage, valuation, and sale of illicit and abandoned goods. Accordingly, the present study aims to investigate the status of sales of smuggled and abandoned goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province during the period 2009–2019.

Methods and Materials

Given that the purpose of the present study was to examine the sales status of smuggled and abandoned goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province from 2009 to 2019, this research can be classified as applied research in terms of its objective.

Descriptive studies generally employ library research methods, including the review of texts and content analysis, as well as field methods such as questionnaires, interviews, and observation. In general, descriptive research can be divided into three categories: survey research, case study research, and content analysis. The present descriptive-survey study investigates the sales status of smuggled and abandoned goods and examines the current status of the statistical population through several attributes or variables.

Considering that, in addition to questionnaires, documents, records, books, articles, theses, and internet-based databases were used in this study to collect information related to the background and literature of the research topic, the present study is descriptive-survey research in terms of both nature and methodology.

Among the instruments commonly used in research for data collection are the review of related articles, documents, and records, as well as interviews and questionnaires. In the present study, books, articles, theses,

internet resources, and statistical tables were extensively utilized for data collection across all sections of the research.

Library Research: In the library section, descriptive information was collected from books, articles, reports, and statistical yearbooks.

Field Research: In the field section, the required information was extracted from the statistical population in the form of statistical tables.

A statistical population refers to a set of objects or phenomena that share one or more common characteristics and are considered collectively; in other words, the statistical population refers to the original population from which a representative sample is obtained.

The definition of the statistical population must be comprehensive and exclusive; that is, it should be formulated in such a way that, from both temporal and spatial perspectives, it encompasses all units under study while simultaneously excluding units that should not be included in the investigation. The population examined in the present study consists of the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province.

Data collection instruments and methods can be categorized from different perspectives into several types: (1) collection of documents and records, (2) extensive data collection, and (3) in-depth data collection.

Various data collection instruments include observation, face-to-face interviews, non-face-to-face interviews, questionnaires, and library studies. In the present study, both library and field research methods were employed.

If the logical stages of scientific research are divided into three stages—exploration, description, and verification or interpretation—the questionnaire is positioned within the exploration stage. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis. In the present study, there was generally no need to employ inferential statistics.

Findings and Results

The main research question examined the sales status of smuggled and abandoned goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province from 2009 to 2019. Descriptive analysis was used to assess the annual volume and monetary value of smuggled and abandoned goods, the value of sold goods, and the status of buyers of state-owned properties. The findings indicate that both the physical volume and monetary value of goods handled by the organization fluctuated across the study period, with several peaks observed in the later years, especially between 2015 and 2019.

Table 1. Combined Descriptive Statistics of Smuggled and Abandoned Goods in the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province, 2009–2019

| Year | Main smuggled goods | Sold smuggled goods volume (kg) | Total smuggled goods value (Rial) | Sold smuggled goods value (Rial) | Total smuggled goods volume (kg) | Main abandoned goods | Sold abandoned goods volume (kg) | Sold abandoned goods value (Rial) | Total abandoned goods value (Rial) | Total abandoned goods volume (kg) | Buyer-status value (Rial) |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | Cosmetics and hygiene products | 89,227 | 139,048,421,901 | 95,530,186,375 | 129,416 | Ironware | 170,129 | 153,344,036,129 | 325,729,060,907 | 325,452 | 153,344,036,129 |
| 2010 | Fabric | 95,425 | 96,747,463,014 | 75,011,267,188 | 110,270 | MDF | 140,129 | 16,951,105,206 | 27,011,987,860 | 230,871 | 16,951,105,206 |
| 2011 | Clothing | 109,221 | 196,196,935,308 | 154,926,121,969 | 116,721 | Chemicals | 99,008 | 4,209,595,467 | 4,892,534,709 | 103,828 | 4,209,595,467 |
| 2012 | Tea | 196,414 | 460,076,753,606 | 112,742,225,777 | 229,798 | Apparel | 98,189 | 7,806,432,274 | 54,186,581,018 | 211,724 | 7,806,432,274 |
| 2013 | Shoes | 202,496 | 271,618,817,668 | 187,306,335,076 | 299,836 | Fabric | 276,432 | 262,748,134,630 | 1,116,469,644,340 | 372,476 | 262,748,134,630 |
| 2014 | Bags | 202,937 | 516,459,242,956 | 325,409,342,600 | 198,416 | Equipment and machinery | 323,446 | 225,797,306,779 | 1,031,099,759,440 | 876,992 | 225,797,306,779 |
| 2015 | Mobile phones | 322,426 | 1,275,049,909,112 | 270,538,769,451 | 625,991 | Machinery parts | 325,200 | 106,547,016,995 | 1,751,534,306,497 | 825,442 | 106,457,016,995 |
| 2016 | Tobacco products | 72,452 | 4,531,015,380,673 | 67,977,291,958 | 625,291 | Gypsum powder | 401,212 | 107,102,137,937 | 1,711,511,781,003 | 635,947 | 107,102,137,937 |
| 2017 | Gold and jewelry | 112,000 | 994,549,303,777 | 111,567,349,413 | 202,396 | Detached parts | 525,000 | 289,441,853,036 | 2,429,031,821,112 | 998,000 | 289,441,853,036 |
| 2018 | Toys | 221,491 | 2,594,068,050,859 | 368,363,687,924 | 671,409 | Decorative dishes | 625,000 | 571,062,808,160 | 33,283,882,092,859 | 1,003,451 | 571,062,808,160 |
| 2019 | Household appliances | 202,034 | 2,571,825,297,487 | 405,617,308,620 | 846,000 | Kitchenware | 459,003 | 479,244,643,552 | 2,249,128,304,916 | 989,726 | 479,244,643,552 |

The results presented in Table 1 show that the highest volume of sold smuggled goods was recorded in 2015, with 322,426 kg of mobile phones sold, while the lowest volume was reported in 2016, with 72,452 kg of tobacco products. In terms of total smuggled goods value, 2016 recorded the highest value, amounting to 4,531,015,380,673 Rials, whereas 2010 recorded the lowest value, amounting to 96,747,463,014 Rials. The value of sold smuggled goods reached its highest level in 2019, with 405,617,308,620 Rials. Regarding abandoned goods, the highest sold volume was observed in 2018, with 625,000 kg of decorative dishes, while the highest total abandoned-goods volume was also reported in 2018, with 1,003,451 kg. The highest monetary value of abandoned goods was recorded in 2018, reaching 33,283,882,092,859 Rials. Overall, the findings indicate that the organization's activity in managing, selling, and valuing smuggled and abandoned goods increased considerably in several categories during the later years of the study period, particularly from 2015 onward.

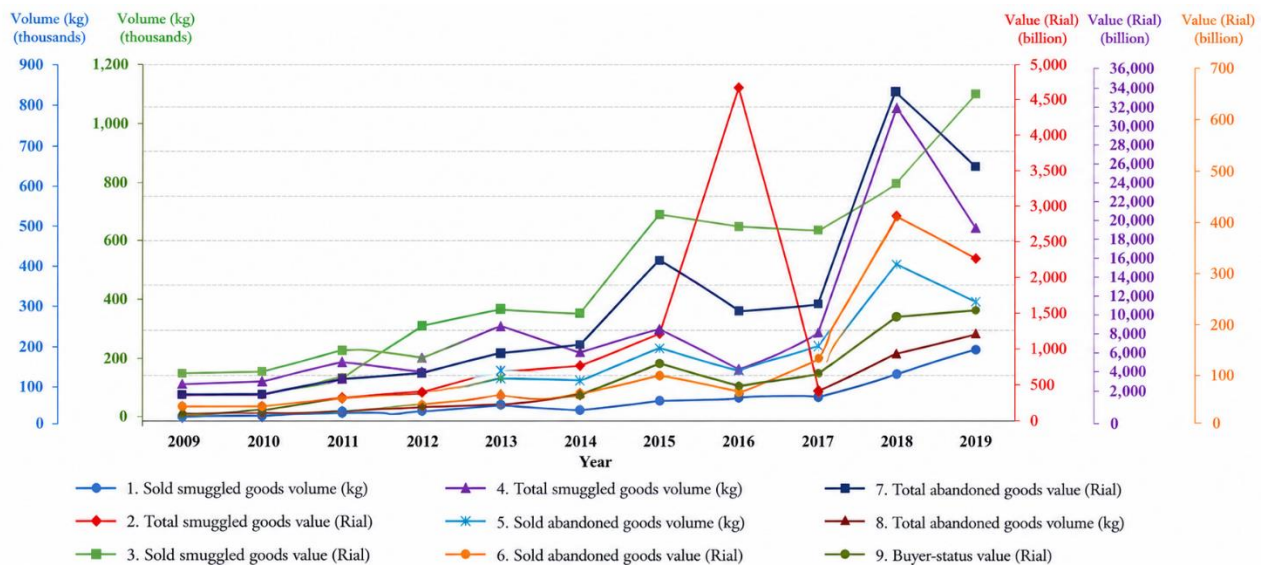


Figure 1. Integrated Trend of the Volume and Value of Smuggled and Abandoned Goods in Hormozgan Province, 2009–2019

The integrated figure should present all nine trend lines across the years 2009–2019, including the volume of sold smuggled goods, total value of smuggled goods, value of sold smuggled goods, total volume of smuggled goods, volume of sold abandoned goods, value of sold abandoned goods, total value of abandoned goods, total volume of abandoned goods, and buyer-status value. The figure demonstrates that the value-related indicators generally show sharper fluctuations than volume-related indicators. The most notable increase appears in the total value of abandoned goods in 2018, while the total volume of abandoned goods also reaches its highest point in the same year. In contrast, the sales volume of smuggled goods shows a more moderate pattern, with its peak in 2015 and a decline in 2016. Overall, the graphical pattern confirms that the organization's handling of smuggled and abandoned goods was not linear over the study period and was affected by changes in the type, monetary value, and volume of goods entering the sales and ownership-transfer process.

Discussion and Conclusion

The findings of the present study demonstrated that the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province experienced considerable fluctuations in the volume and value of smuggled and abandoned goods between 2009 and 2019. The results indicated that both the quantity and financial value of confiscated commodities increased significantly during several years of the study period, particularly after 2015. Household appliances, mobile phones, machinery parts, tobacco products, decorative items, and industrial equipment constituted major categories of confiscated and abandoned goods. Furthermore, the findings revealed that the monetary value of goods frequently increased at a faster rate than their physical volume, indicating the growing circulation of high-value commodities within smuggling networks. These findings suggest that the province's strategic geographic location and commercial significance intensified its exposure to illicit trade activities and increased the operational responsibilities of the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties.

One of the most significant findings of the study was the substantial increase in the value of smuggled goods during the later years of the investigation period, especially in 2016 and 2018. This finding is consistent with studies emphasizing the growing sophistication of illicit commercial networks and the diversification of shadow supply chains in global markets (1, 2). Modern smuggling systems no longer rely solely on low-value contraband products; instead, they increasingly involve technologically advanced, luxury, and high-profit commodities capable of generating substantial illegal revenues. The high financial value of confiscated goods observed in the present study confirms the argument that illicit markets are becoming increasingly integrated into broader transnational criminal economies (3, 8). Moreover, the findings support the perspective that smuggling activities are deeply associated with economic incentives, market demand, and profit-maximization behavior among illicit actors (1, 21).

The results also demonstrated that the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties functioned simultaneously as a regulatory institution and a redistributive economic mechanism. Through the sale of confiscated and abandoned goods, the organization generated economic returns while attempting to regulate the circulation of illicit commodities within the domestic market. However, the findings also indicated that the redistribution of confiscated goods may unintentionally contribute to market distortions and anti-competitive outcomes. This finding aligns with previous studies suggesting that the reintegration of confiscated products into domestic commercial systems may create pricing imbalances and negatively affect formal producers and importers (2, 9). In this regard, the organization faces a structural contradiction between revenue generation and protection

of domestic production. The findings therefore support arguments emphasizing the necessity of modern disposal strategies, including exportation, controlled redistribution, or destruction of specific confiscated goods to prevent harmful market effects.

Another important finding concerned the increasing volume and value of abandoned goods during the later years of the study period. The findings revealed that decorative dishes, kitchenware, industrial machinery, and machinery components constituted major categories of abandoned commodities. This increase may reflect inefficiencies in customs procedures, legal disputes over ownership, prolonged storage processes, and reduced incentives for importers to reclaim goods under adverse economic conditions. Similar patterns have been discussed in international studies examining institutional challenges in confiscated-property management and cross-border trade regulation (17, 19). The accumulation of abandoned goods creates substantial administrative burdens for governmental organizations, including storage costs, depreciation risks, legal complications, and logistical inefficiencies. Therefore, the increasing trends observed in the present study may indicate broader structural issues within customs administration and commercial governance systems.

The findings further indicated that the value-related indicators of confiscated goods increased more rapidly than volume-related indicators. This pattern suggests that smuggling networks increasingly prioritize high-value products with lower transportation risks and greater profitability. Such findings are consistent with studies concerning illicit trafficking in antiquities, cultural property, and luxury goods, which emphasize the growing economic sophistication of criminal supply chains (7, 15). Research has shown that illicit networks frequently concentrate on commodities capable of generating high financial returns while minimizing detection risks (14). The high-value fluctuations identified in the present study therefore support the argument that modern illicit trade is increasingly influenced by organized commercial strategies rather than opportunistic smuggling practices.

The results regarding the diversity of confiscated goods also correspond with international findings concerning diversification within criminal economies. Studies examining illegal wildlife trade, cultural-property trafficking, and organized crime have demonstrated that criminal networks often diversify their activities across multiple commodity categories to reduce operational risk and maximize profit opportunities (4, 22). In the present study, confiscated commodities ranged from cosmetics, textiles, and tobacco products to industrial machinery and household appliances. Such diversity indicates that smuggling activities in Hormozgan Province were not limited to isolated product groups but instead reflected a broad and adaptive underground commercial structure. This finding further supports the argument that illicit trade networks are highly flexible and responsive to market demand and regulatory conditions (1, 10).

The study additionally demonstrated that the years with the highest values of confiscated goods often coincided with broader economic pressures and changing commercial conditions. Economic instability, inflationary pressures, currency fluctuations, and trade restrictions may increase incentives for informal and illicit commercial activities. Previous studies have emphasized that illicit markets tend to expand when formal trade becomes more restricted, expensive, or inaccessible (2, 21). In such contexts, consumers and traders may increasingly rely on informal supply channels to access goods unavailable through legal markets. Therefore, the findings of the present study may reflect not only criminal activity but also broader economic and structural conditions affecting commercial behavior within the province.

Another important aspect of the findings concerns institutional effectiveness and regulatory capacity. The increasing quantities of confiscated and abandoned goods suggest that enforcement and seizure operations

intensified during certain years of the study period. This may indicate stronger coordination among customs authorities, judicial institutions, law-enforcement agencies, and the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties. Similar arguments have been raised in studies emphasizing the importance of inter-institutional coordination and legal harmonization in combating illicit trade (3, 17). Nevertheless, the persistence and growth of confiscated goods also indicate that enforcement measures alone may be insufficient to eliminate smuggling activities. Effective anti-smuggling strategies require not only confiscation and redistribution mechanisms but also preventive economic, legal, and technological policies capable of reducing incentives for participation in illicit markets.

The findings related to the high financial value of confiscated goods also correspond with research concerning money laundering and illicit financial flows. Studies examining criminal legalization mechanisms demonstrate that illicit goods are frequently integrated into formal economic systems through auctions, intermediaries, and semi-legal commercial practices (6, 8). Consequently, organizations responsible for confiscated-property sales must maintain transparent valuation systems, monitoring procedures, and sales mechanisms to prevent secondary corruption or re-entry of illegal goods into underground markets. The results of the present study therefore highlight the importance of institutional transparency and accountability within confiscated-property management systems.

The findings may also be interpreted within the broader framework of globalization and transnational trade expansion. Hormozgan Province serves as one of Iran's primary maritime and trade gateways, which naturally increases exposure to international commercial flows and associated smuggling risks. Previous studies have emphasized that border regions and commercial transit hubs frequently become focal points for illicit economic activity due to high trade volumes and complex customs interactions (1, 9). Accordingly, the trends identified in the present study reflect not only local management challenges but also broader regional and international dynamics influencing illicit trade patterns.

In addition, the findings concerning the management and sale of confiscated goods may be interpreted through institutional and criminological perspectives addressing the rationalization of illicit markets. Research on underground art markets and illicit antiquities trading demonstrates that actors within illegal markets frequently normalize and rationalize their activities through commercial narratives and informal legitimacy mechanisms (10, 23). In the context of the present study, the sustained demand for confiscated and redistributed goods may similarly indicate the normalization of informal consumption practices among certain market participants. Such conditions can weaken public trust in formal economic systems and complicate state regulatory efforts.

The findings of the present study overall indicate that the Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Hormozgan Province performed a highly significant role in managing confiscated and abandoned goods during the period 2009–2019. Nevertheless, the increasing volume and value of goods handled by the organization reveal the persistence and expansion of smuggling activities and associated underground commercial systems. The results confirm international research emphasizing that illicit trade constitutes a multidimensional economic, legal, managerial, and security challenge requiring coordinated institutional responses, transparent governance mechanisms, and adaptive policy frameworks (7, 18, 24). Therefore, improving the efficiency of confiscated-property management systems may contribute not only to revenue generation but also to broader economic regulation, market stability, and anti-smuggling policy effectiveness.

One limitation of the present study was the reliance on descriptive organizational records and archival statistics without access to broader national databases concerning smuggling activities across other provinces. Additionally,

some statistical inconsistencies and fluctuations in recorded commodity categories may have affected the precision of longitudinal comparisons. Another limitation involved the absence of direct interviews with organizational managers, customs officials, or buyers of confiscated goods, which restricted the study primarily to quantitative descriptive analysis.

Future research should investigate the relationship between regional economic conditions and fluctuations in smuggling activities using inferential statistical methods and predictive modeling approaches. Comparative studies across multiple provinces and border regions may provide a more comprehensive understanding of institutional effectiveness in confiscated-property management. Researchers may also examine the impact of confiscated-goods redistribution on domestic market competition, consumer behavior, and industrial production using mixed-method or econometric approaches.

From a practical perspective, the findings suggest that governmental authorities should strengthen transparency mechanisms within confiscated-property sales systems and expand digital monitoring technologies for tracking confiscated goods. Policymakers should also consider differentiated disposal strategies for specific categories of goods in order to minimize harmful effects on domestic industries and market competition. Furthermore, improving coordination among customs administrations, judicial institutions, law-enforcement agencies, and economic regulatory organizations may enhance the overall effectiveness of anti-smuggling policies and reduce the long-term accumulation of abandoned goods.

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Authors' Contributions

All authors equally contributed to this study.

Declaration of Interest

The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

Ethical Considerations

All ethical principles were adhered in conducting and writing this article.

Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this study are available upon request.

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