

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

REPORT OF THE FIRST SUMMIT OF INTERNATIONAL CHIEFS  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

This document has been submitted by the Secretariat on behalf of ICPO-Interpol\*. It is submitted in relation to agenda item 29 on *Enforcement matters*.

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INTERPOL



UNEP



## International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

**Chefs des services chargés du respect des normes  
environnementales et de la lutte contre les atteintes  
à l'environnement**

**Jefes de Servicios encargados del Cumplimiento  
y la Ejecución de las Normas Ambientales**

**رؤساء الشبكة الدولية للامتثال والإنفاذ البيئيين**

**LYON, FRANCE, 27-29 MARCH 2012**

# SUMMIT REPORT

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## Executive Summary

Hosted by INTERPOL and co-organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the 1<sup>st</sup> International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (ICECE) Summit, held between 27 and 29 March 2012 in Lyon, France, marked the first cooperative steps towards an enhanced state of international law enforcement collaboration.

In 2010, at the 79<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly, the Chiefs of Police from 188 countries adopted an Environmental Enforcement Resolution. This Resolution acknowledges that:

***“Environmental law enforcement is not always the responsibility of one national agency, but rather, is multi-disciplinary in nature due to the complexity and diversity of the crime type which can encompass disciplines such as wildlife, pollution, fisheries, forestry, natural resources and climate change, with reaching effect into other areas of crime.”***

The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit brought together national leaders of environment, biodiversity and natural resource agencies and departments with law enforcement responsibility to develop a global strategy for addressing environmental concerns. The Summit brought together almost 230 delegates from nearly 70 countries and international bodies to attend thematic sessions on Investigative Assistance and Operational Support, Information Management, Capacity Building Standards, and Effective Networks, as well as commodity specific side-meetings covering fisheries, forestry, pollution, and wildlife.



Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit

Particular concern was expressed from many delegates on the scale of environmental crime and the connection with organized transnational crime, including issues of smuggling, corruption, fraud, tax evasion, money laundering, and murder:

- The interconnectivity of environmental crime with other forms of criminal activity requires co-operation and collaboration across all levels of law enforcement in order to combat and prevent the illegal activities;
- The current scale of environmental crime involves very similar approaches, means and severity as other forms of crime, but is aggravated and exacerbated further by the direct serious implications it has on the development goals of many countries;
- Particular concern is raised on the sheer scale of environmental crime including, but not limited to, illegal logging and deforestation, illegal fisheries and smuggling of toxic waste, and the severe implications of this not only on the environment, but also on human security and economic development.

The three day Summit created strong momentum and highlighted the need to harness this momentum for the future. A consensus was reached that a second ICECE Summit will be beneficial as the level of awareness of environmental crime raised at this 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit created a strong foundation to attract high-level representation from countries not represented on this occasion, and to increase high-level political will across the global political, social, economic, and environmental spectrums.

For more information about the Summit, including the strategic plan, agenda, presentations and videos, please visit: <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Conferences-and-meetings>

## Summit Outcomes

INTERPOL and UNEP have long recognized that effective environmental compliance and enforcement measures have a positive impact on the global environment, economy, and security. Criminals and non-compliant sectors of the international community have a negative effect on the environment, biodiversity, and natural resources. Their activities impede development, erode good governance and the rule of law, and need to be addressed collectively by national leaders in the field of environment.

The 1st ICECE Summit presented an opportunity for leaders of environmental compliance and enforcement, INTERPOL and UNEP, and representatives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and of other inter-governmental agencies to collectively discuss matters of national importance at an international level, emphasizing that communication, cooperation, and collaboration are vital to the international environmental compliance and enforcement efforts.

## Summit Structure

The Summit was organized into five panel sessions, opening with *Evaluation of Current National, Regional and International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Strategies*. This was followed by four thematic panel sessions focusing on specific processes, products, and services identified as key factors in effective international cooperation in environmental law enforcement<sup>1</sup>:

- Investigative Assistance and Operational Support
- Information Management
- Capacity Building Standards
- Effective Networks

The interactive panel sessions provided a platform where national environmental leaders were able to discuss and comment on current issues at national, regional and international levels. Each panel was composed of representatives from international and independent organizations or conventions alongside two country representatives and supported by hosts from INTERPOL and UNEP.

Alongside the panels, there was also an opportunity for delegates to participate in commodity specific side-meetings which were divided into four main topics: *Fisheries, Forestry, Pollution and Wildlife*.

The delegates were asked to provide feedback regarding the Summit (Appendix 2) and indicated that information gained during the Summit was extremely important (2.1), with a relatively even distribution of preference for the thematic panels (2.2.) and an adequate level of representation of agencies and departments for this type of event (2.3). A vast majority of the attendees agreed that a 2<sup>nd</sup> ICECE Summit would be of benefit and 95% of attendees providing feedback reported that they would reattend (2.4).

The feedback received also indicates that the majority of attendees favour the Summit to be held on a yearly basis (2.5).

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<sup>1</sup> For more details regarding the agenda, please visit Summit Themes at <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Conferences-and-meetings/Meetings/International-Chiefs-of-Environmental-Compliance-and-Enforcement>

## Working Towards an Outcome of the International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

The three days of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit demonstrated that while a number of important national and international initiatives to improve environmental compliance and enforcement have been undertaken, there are still many gaps. The implementation of environmental compliance and enforcement practices needs stronger review to enhance the existing arrangements and to prevent duplication of efforts throughout the entire chain of environmental enforcement. Discussions also recognised the interconnection of environmental crime and other forms of serious and organized crime, and acknowledged the importance of INTERPOL's role in ensuring that environmental crime is recognized as serious, organized, and transnational.



1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit

Discussions were divided between operational and strategic approaches to tackling environmental crime and the role of Governments and the relevant international organizations and MEAs, including the role and function of UNEP, INTERPOL and the Environmental Crime Programme (ECP), in the international arena and other initiatives, with the following outcomes and identified steps forward concluding the 1st ICECE Summit:

- Breaches and violations of environmental law are impacting efforts to reach a state of sustainable development and can interfere with both a nation's environmental security and governments' ability to provide environmental viability to support its citizens' lives;
- Increased environmental security, the protection of the values, provisions, and regulations as defined by local, national, and international law, is needed to ensure the ongoing sustainable use and development of the environment, biodiversity, and natural resources that humanity relies upon for its existence;
- Priority should be given to preventing damage to a nation's environmental security and minimize the risk of eroded political, social and economic stability;
- There is a vital need to work together in discussing, designing, and deciding upon the strategic and tactical deployment of national and international resources and financial investment dedicated to international environmental compliance and enforcement;
- In order to proactively ensure environmental security, cooperation and collaboration at international and national level on compliance and enforcement matters must be enhanced;
- Efforts need to be made to bridge international inequality and harmonize compliance and enforcement practices and responses based on the support of member countries and the international community through providing access to education and professional training;
- Member countries should increase their commitment to cooperate, collaborate, and communicate with the mandated inter-governmental organizations and conventions to which the respective country is a party to or a member of, in order to ensure environmental security for all global citizens;
- Governments, inter-governmental organizations, MEAs, civil society, and the private sector all have an important role in moving towards an enhanced state of environmental security.



Furthermore, public-private partnerships should be considered to support international enforcement efforts;

- Good governance and rule of law need a consistent approach at local, national, regional, and international levels, and participative governance is needed to deliver results and reduce the impact of environmental crime;
- Compliance and enforcement networks have an important role in providing a platform for enhancing cooperation, collaboration, and communication. These networks should be maintained or developed in suitable institutions and with abilities to evolve to meet the current and future needs of the global environmental compliance and enforcement community;
- There is a need to measure international law enforcement progress through the development of an international set of indicators to evaluate on the ground cooperation between countries;
- A temporary advisory board is to be established to assist in the development and progress of the outcomes of the 1st ICECE Summit in relation to raising public and political awareness and profile of environmental crime, facilitation of information and intelligence exchange and strategic and tactical planning;
- The advisory board will be coming together periodically via teleconference to discuss the development of identified recommendations and further actions and set up a strategy for the establishment of a permanent Chiefs' Steering Committee.

Our environment is key to our existence; harm to it can inflict significant damage on society, economies, politics, and public health. As a result, it needs to be carefully protected and its sustainability ensured. A focus on environmental crime and environmental security is therefore crucial, and its importance needs to be prioritised more than ever before.

**The time is now.**

## Opening Session

The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Session was opened by the **Chair of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Committee, Mr. Andrew Lauterback**, who introduced the Summit as the first forum of its kind with environmental enforcement leaders meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest and to generate a move towards a collaborative decision on international environmental strategy.

**Mr. Bernd Rossbach, Acting Executive Director for Police Services at INTERPOL**, welcomed the delegates, introduced INTERPOL and its services, and spoke about the current threats and risks associated with environmental crime and the vital role of cooperation in ensuring a global response. He further outlined the aim of the Summit as an opportunity to facilitate joint headway in addressing all forms of environmental crime, a phenomenon that both deserves and requires the attention of the global law enforcement community.

**Mr. Masa Nagai, Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP**, addressed the delegates as the co-host of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit, discussing UNEP's 40 years of existence and the increasing commitment of countries around the world to addressing environmental issues, with currently over 500 treaties setting out various environmental goals and objectives. However, the challenge now is one of implementation of environmental rules and regulations to ensure compliance. In this context, UNEP underlined its partnership with the INTERPOL ECP and encouraged representatives to use this Summit as an opportunity to come together and build stronger partnerships among countries, environmental organizations, as well as with UNEP and INTERPOL to tackle environmental crime and strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement.

**Mr. Azzedine Thomas Downes, Executive Vice-President of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)**, explained the presence of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) during the opening of this governmental Summit in his keynote address, arguing for the vital need for governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations to cooperate in information sharing, overcoming political barriers, increasing awareness on environmental crime related topics, and strengthening relationships. Although IFAW is a strong non-governmental organization, many of its environmental goals would be unachievable without partnerships with inter-governmental organizations such as INTERPOL and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



*Opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit Lyon, France*

## *I. Evaluation of Current National, Regional and International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Strategies*

The opening panel discussed the overarching developmental and societal goals that are directly related to, and hinge upon, the successful implementation of policies tackling environmental compliance and enforcement, and sustainable development as a whole. Environmental crime is often an obstruction to the realization of these objectives and hinders the successful implementation of policies and regulatory schemes regarding the environment. The panel highlighted the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), composed of the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank, and the WCO, and attempted to draw lessons from this innovative new consortium.

### **The Panel**

The panel was chaired by Mr. Masa Nagai and included Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary General of CITES, Mr. David Higgins, Manager of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme, Mr. Allen Bruford, Deputy Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the WCO through a video message, Mr. Gilbert Bankobeza, Chief of Legal Affairs and Compliance at UNEP's Ozone Secretariat, and Mr. Jorge Rios, Chief of Sustainable Livelihoods for UNODC.

**Mr. Masa Nagai** introduced the panel as an opportunity for national leaders to draw attention to the current situation of environmental compliance and enforcement in their countries.

**Mr. John Scanlon** presented the ICCWC and its efforts to bring together organizations across the entire law enforcement chain. He also described CITES' recognition and encouragement of cooperation and collaboration in order to seriously address and combat wildlife crime. He concluded that as environmental crime is a growing problem with aspects of organized cross-border criminality and interlinked crimes, there is a need for involvement from the whole chain of law enforcement, nationally, regionally and internationally, to combat it. He also highlighted ICCWC initiatives such as the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and the international workshop on Establishing a Network of Controlled Delivery Units for Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement.

**Mr. David Higgins** introduced the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme and its activities in relation to environmental compliance and enforcement. He described the Programme's focus on a number of environmental commodities and its role as a clearing house for matters related to the international law enforcement community. He concluded that the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit was an opportunity for the international community to formulate a response to environmental crime and ensure compliance and enforcement of international rules and regulations, as called for by the Environmental Enforcement Resolution adopted by the member countries at the 79<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly.

**Mr. Allen Bruford** addressed the participants in his video message and welcomed the intentions of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE session to strengthen international environmental compliance and enforcement and its importance to the work of the WCO.

**Mr. Gilbert Bankobeza** provided a presentation on ozone depleting substances, evaluated current national, regional, and international environmental compliance and enforcement strategies, and called for a stronger understanding and implementation of international laws to more efficiently combat environmental crime.

**Mr. Jorge Rios** highlighted the increased recognition that environmental crime is multifaceted and directly linked to transnational organized crime networks responsible for undermining security and threatening political and social stability, the rule of law, human rights, and sustainable economic development. He concluded that the ICECE Summit was not just a step towards increased international cooperation in combating environmental crime and strengthening security, but also to identifying problem areas for sustainable development and successful environmental compliance and enforcement.

## Discussion

The panel presentations generated wide ranging discussions on the current state of environmental compliance, the effect of environmental crimes on sustainable development, available resources to increase effective compliance, and ways to improve environmental governance for sustainable development. The following points emerged:

1. Current national states of environmental compliance:

- There are varying levels of political awareness of environmental crime;
- Environmental crime is seldom seen as a priority and is seldom considered a mainstream crime;
- There are inconsistent capacity levels between the developed and developing countries to address environmental compliance, often dependent on financial and technical constraints;
- The conceptualization of environmental crime and compliance varies between countries and there is differing prioritisation of different types of environmental crime;
- There are differences between countries in enforcing the law and complying with it.

2. Current national needs to increase effective environmental compliance and improve environmental governance for sustainable development:

- There is a need for improved international cooperation, collaboration, and information exchange;
- The importance of established networks and their role in increasing international cooperation was highlighted;
- There is a need to identify internationally available resources and how they can be used to support individual nations;
- The Summit represented an opportunity to discuss national problem areas and exchange best practice information on an international level.

3. Goals to be achieved at the 1st ICECE Summit:

- Identify national needs to successfully improve environmental compliance on national and international levels;
- Identify how the international community can assist nations and regions with improving their environmental compliance and enforcement strategies;
- Identify national, regional, and international strategies for successful collective steps forward to ensure environmental sustainability;
- Increase political awareness by bringing the outcomes of the 1st ICECE Summit to the attention of national leaders;
- Place environmental compliance higher on political agendas.

## Conclusions and recommendations

The first panel provided an opportunity to evaluate current national, regional and international environmental compliance and enforcement strategies in order to lay the foundation for further thematic discussion within the framework of investigative assistance and operational support, information management, capacity building standards, and effective networks:

- Environmental crime has serious and adverse effects on the planet, biodiversity, and human life and needs to receive higher attention on the political level nationally, regionally, and globally;
- Environmental crime is interconnected with other types of crime, including corruption, tax evasion, and drug trafficking and requires increased attention from all components of the law enforcement chain, from police officers on the ground to the judicial system. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime has an important role to play in supporting States and regional and sub-regional networks, as the ICCWC partners collectively deal with the entire enforcement system;
- Member countries, together with INTERPOL, UNEP, represented inter-governmental organizations, and MEAs, can facilitate discussion with regards to resources available nationally and internationally to improve collective efforts in ensuring environmental sustainability;
- The outcomes of the Summit should be brought to the attention of national leaders in order to increase political awareness of environmental crime and the focus on environmental sustainability that is needed.

## *II. Investigative Assistance and Operational Support*

Investigative assistance and operational support are two of the key activities in any agency's compliance and enforcement response. However, satisfying each nation's respective agencies' procedures can be challenging. The problem is greatly exacerbated in multinational law enforcement operations and investigations as the participating countries have different laws, procedures and priorities that can frequently conflict with each other.

To guarantee effective and efficient responses to environmental crime on an international level, there is a need to strengthen the multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach to secure rapid and effective communication exchange, real-time information cross-referencing, technical assistance, and legal advice. This requires discussion of resources and capacities to ensure optimal allocations among participating agencies, as only by working together can we strengthen our global response.

### **The Panel**

The panel was chaired by Mr. Rob de Rijck, Public Prosecutor for the Department of Justice of the Netherlands and included Mr. Silvian Ionescu, General Commissioner of the Romanian National Environmental Guard (Garda Nationala de Mediu, GNM) and Colonel Johannes Hendrik Smith, Operational Commander for the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation of South Africa. The panel was supported by Mr. David Higgins, INTERPOL, and Mr. Masa Nagai, UNEP.

**Mr. Rob de Rijck** highlighted two aspects of addressing environmental crime: the primary objective is not to protect the environment but to detect and combat criminality, and that there is a lack of strong relationships and cooperation strategies for combating environmental crime. To improve this, there is a need to maintain relationships nationally between a multitude of agencies including investigative, prosecuting, environmental and administrative offices and with regular law enforcement agencies. However, obstacles are presented not only by the differing responsibilities of the agencies and departments involved, but also by the very definition of environmental crime.

**Mr. Silvian Ionescu** discussed GNM's cooperation with other national agencies, including the police and secret services as a fundamental necessity in carrying out inspections and investigations, including ensuring the protection of environmental enforcement officials who are often threatened by the suspected offenders. Mr. Ionescu also drew attention to the frustrations associated with the lack of prosecution for environmental offences.

**Colonel Johannes Hendrik Smith** discussed investigative support in South Africa relating to wildlife crime which includes marine coastal management, a priority crime in the country. Recognizing the different tactics employed by environmental criminals, from rural poaching by locals to transnational trafficking, he discussed the difficulties in investigating the differing crimes and the challenges presented by working under varying rules and legislation. The different levels of crime require the involvement of different national and international agencies, such as the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) in South Africa, UNEP and INTERPOL, as well as provincial agencies, including revenue and forensic services, and the general public. Colonel Smith concluded by stressing the importance of inter-agency cooperation, including in the collection of information and intelligence.

### **Discussion**

Following the panel's presentations, delegates engaged in discussions across the theme of Investigative Assistance and Operational Support. Examples highlighted inconsistent engagement from participating agencies in pre-planning and post-operation stages. One particular problem

regarding post-operation was the failure of reports to fully provide detailed criminal intelligence, limiting the use of the information for further analysis and thus, lowering the operation's overall success and worth. These inconsistencies were attributed to a lack of political and institutional awareness of the need for national and international engagement, cooperation, and coordination, alongside a lack of capacity and capabilities among national agencies to operate internationally. These issues were also compounded by a lack of awareness among national agencies of the role of INTERPOL NCBs and the tools they offer.

The emerging discussion can be categorized under five main points:

1. *The main obstacles encountered to **international** communication, cooperation, and coordination during operations, including intelligence gathering and analysis pre- and post-operation:*
  - Knowledge of the work of different agencies, such as INTERPOL or UNEP, differs between countries. Clarification of the international support available and the actual role of INTERPOL is needed;
  - Differences in experiences of cooperation between countries and INTERPOL and INTERPOL's ability to raise awareness of environmental crime on a practical level;
  - Differences in national laws in identifying, classifying, and combating environmental crime and a lack of awareness of INTERPOL's role, as an international organization, in bridging these differences and assisting from an international perspective;
  - Differences and inconsistencies in guidelines for international communication strategies, including contact points, procedures to follow and knowledge of information sharing channels.
  
2. *The main obstacles to **national** inter-agency communication, cooperation, and coordination during operations, including intelligence gathering and analysis pre- and post-operation:*
  - Differences and inconsistencies in communication strategies and information exchange between national legal agencies due to confidentiality restrictions pre-operation;
  - Sharing of operational results limited by confidentiality laws and regulations post-operation;
  - Differences in communication strategies and regulations for information exchange between governmental and non-governmental agencies;
  - Lack of political will and awareness in treating environmental crime as equal to other types of crime leading to weak operational and investigative assistance from traditional law enforcement agencies.

3. *Demand for international investigative assistance and operational support and the resources needed to effectively meet this demand:*
  - Need for international support for cross-border investigations and operations, especially where there are no strong bonds between the countries involved;
  - Need to raise awareness of environmental crime and place it higher on domestic political agendas;
  - Need for a central international organization, such as INTERPOL, to act as an information exchange facilitator between countries to strengthen cooperation;
  - Need to increase networking to coordinate investigations and prosecutions including training law enforcement and compliance personnel, ranging from investigators to judges.
  
4. *Resource availability in agencies/countries to participate in joint international operations:*
  - Availability of resources dedicated to combating environmental crime in countries varies depending on political and public awareness and prioritization of environmental crimes;
  - There is a strong imbalance in resources allocated to environmental crime investigations and operations between nations and across regions;
  - Some countries report a lack of information regarding participation in joint international operations and the support available, e.g. procedures for information sharing with INTERPOL;
  - There is a need for strengthened national systems of detection and investigation coupled with an efficient and effective justice system in order to participate effectively on an international level.
  
5. *Opportunities for improvement:*
  - INTERPOL will continue to raise international awareness of the seriousness of all forms of environmental crime;
  - UNEP will advocate for INTERPOL, ICCWC and the outcomes of the Summit within the broader UN system;
  - Delegates attending the Summit will convey the sessions' messages to their respective agencies, authorities and institutions;
  - Delegates attending the Summit will review current tactics and develop strategies in their countries with regards to environmental investigations and operations and conduct a needs assessment of their country's current resources;
  - There is a need to increase established networking and communication locally, regionally, and internationally to ensure continuity (e.g., implementing and ratifying Multilateral Environmental Agreements).



## Conclusions and recommendations

INTERPOL and its member countries identified the need to continue raising awareness and integrating environmental crime into mainstream crime, not isolating it, to ensure investigative assistance and operational support at national, regional, and international levels. INTERPOL is a conduit to creating links between different crime types, but needs member countries' support to obtain more information for analysis and trend identification.

Delegates revealed problems regarding the classification of environmental crime and inconsistencies in compliance and enforcement strategies within and between countries. There was a general consensus that the *regional* level is not to be excluded from discussions as discrepancies in needs and availability of commodities may differ widely on the international level, while more similarities may be present regionally, including the prevalence of certain crime types, expert knowledge of these crimes, and existing networks and strategies for combating these crimes. In addition, concerns were raised over significant information and intelligence sharing gaps between countries and weaknesses in data linking environmental crime with organized crime and identifying syndicates. New best practices suggestions called for INTERPOL, UNEP and other inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental agencies to work together in order to gain and provide access to unique experience and expertise.

The next step forward must be to evaluate and explore collective actions. The session concluded that:

- Investigations and operations targeting environmental crime frequently require multi-national, and in some cases, international cooperation and coordination;
- The availability of resources, capacities, and capabilities to operate at the international level differ between national law enforcement agencies;
- There is a need for an increased number of operations against environmental crime driven by intelligence gathered from investigations;
- The capacities of authorized inter-governmental organizations to provide assistance to national law enforcement agencies in environmental compliance and enforcement matters must be increased;
- Member country national environmental compliance and enforcement agencies must invest in and develop appropriately mandated inter-governmental organizations in order to enhance the coordination of international investigations and operations;
- In order to facilitate and strengthen international intelligence exchange, national environmental compliance and enforcement agencies with extensive experience and expertise need to share this experience to develop other countries' capacities and capabilities in a coordinated and collaborative manner;
- Increased member country involvement with INTERPOL, via NCBs, in bringing attention to emerging environmental crime issues and supplying information and intelligence through INTERPOL's systems for dissemination to other member countries should be encouraged.

### *III. Information Management*

International information management is not a goal in itself but serves to support and enhance law enforcement at strategic, tactical and operational levels. From an ad-hoc bilateral request for information to structural participation in a global intelligence cycle, the ultimate objective is to prevent violations, ensure higher compliance levels, and develop more successful cases. In the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit, intelligence management includes gathering, sharing, enhancing, analysing, and evaluating information to produce intelligence products and services that support critical and substantiated decision making at all levels.

Although international exchange of enforcement intelligence is often raises concern associated with security risks, if managed well these risks are mitigated and easily surpassed by the crucial benefits of information sharing for effective enforcement. Over the last decade, it has become increasingly clear that law enforcement can no longer afford to be solely re-active and agencies have rapidly introduced the concept of intelligence-led enforcement. In aiming to predict when and where incidents are most likely to occur, agencies have realized that intelligence management can no longer be under the sole authority of specialized units working in isolation but must instead be integrated.

#### **The Panel**

The panel was chaired by Mr. Sheldon Jordan, National Director of Wildlife Enforcement from Environment Canada and included Mr. Emile Lindemulder, INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme Intelligence Manager and Pollution Crime officer, Mr. Fathi Al Faouri, Director of the Royal Department for Environment Protection of the Public Security Directorate of Jordan, Ms. Leah James and Mr. Anthony Rowel and from Good Governance Group (G3), a strategic advisory consultancy, and supported by Dr. Christian Nelleman, Senior Officer of the Rapid Response Unit of UNEP GRID Arendal. The panel presentations and discussion were guided by three main topics: common security concerns and risks in international information exchange; solutions to address these challenged and resource availability to target these concerns.

**Mr. Emile Lindemulder** discussed the term “led by intelligence,” and how, with strategic management and effective enforcement, intelligence can be used to lead strategic and tactical decision making. Information management was described as a circular process, from gathering intelligence and source evaluation, to the rules guiding how intelligence is transmitted and exchanged. He elaborated that intelligence is involved in identification of high-risk targets, commodities, and routes to inform decision makers responsible for implementing targeted compliance operations ensuring greater operational successes and worth. The presentation concluded with a description of INTERPOL’s services, including secure transmission and real time data comparison.

**Mr. Fathi Al Faouri** presented the Royal Department for Environment Protection in Jordan, the collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Department of Justice and the comprehensive policies in place to ensure the existing legislation on environmental compliance and enforcement is imposed. With the number of agencies involved, constant coordination across the board is required to ensure efficient cooperation. The correct information and intelligence exchange is vital in ensuring successful investigations, filling in intelligence gaps and carrying out analytical work. However, challenges remain in raising awareness of the seriousness of environmental crime and its national and global consequences. The exchange of intelligence is therefore a crucial point, not only to raise awareness through conducting successful operations, but also to obtain intelligence-based evidence of the effects of environmental criminality. This intelligence can then be shared with other

countries and organizations, including INTERPOL, that can facilitate further exchange on the international level.

**Ms. Leah James** introduced G3 as a strategic advisory consultancy and explained that, as a private company, G3 is faced with the challenge of not having access to the information governmental authorities hold, unless it is made available to the public. In addition, like many private companies, G3 faces a challenge in dealing with confidential commercial information, thus facing risks associated with data protection and bribery. G3's main responsibility is to advise companies on sensitive matters and threats they may be facing when conducting business and in order to do this job effectively, G3 needs correct, up-to-date intelligence. With new anti-bribery legislation affecting British companies, the management of intelligence is about managing the source of information. Source management is achievable only through appropriate training for analysts in all facets of the intelligence process.

**Mr. Anthony Rowel** further discussed issues associated with information sources, particularly where covert human intelligence sources are concerned, and the necessity of concealing the source's identity, especially once the information leaves a jurisdiction. Source protection is often a precursor to witness protection and is a highly sensitive matter, particularly when organized criminal networks are involved.

**Mr. Sheldon Jordan** concluded with a discussion of the role of proactive use of intelligence in crime prevention. Having intelligence will not solve problems or answer questions unless it is analyzed properly, disseminated correctly, and acted upon. Intelligence-led enforcement should be viewed in a similar way to a business model, with in-depth expert analysis and research identifying risks, threats, and priorities, and setting the course for targeted intelligence-led actions and operations.

## Discussion

Following the panel's presentations, delegates discussed and evaluated case specific examples, generating a discussion regarding the conceptualization of intelligence, the management of information and intelligence nationally and internationally, the availability of training, and cost implications. Variations among member countries in their motivation and levels of participation and performance in the international environmental intelligence process were identified. Some of these were attributable to different conditions and requirements for effective intelligence management. Insufficient connections between NCBs and specialized environmental law enforcement agencies outside of traditional police organizations were also highlighted as problem areas. Discussions generated the following points:

1. *The added value of intelligence-led environmental law enforcement:*

- Information that has been evaluated, collated, put in context and analyzed can be used to identify links, frequent offenders, and high-risks areas;
- Intelligence is a useful tool in interpreting facts and opinions, facilitates strategic and tactical decision making, guides the organization, and allows prediction of likely-to-occur scenarios;
- The value of intelligence is not limited to law enforcement agencies, but also to improving political and public awareness and informing decisions at national and international levels;
- An intelligence-led approach to policing will generate evidence and evidence can be brought to court, improving awareness of environmental crime in the judiciary system.

2. Added value of connecting **national** environmental intelligence models at an international level:
  - National differences in intelligence and information conceptualization and management between countries may be reduced if connected on an international level;
  - A standardization may lead to increased political cooperation and collaboration if nations follow the same guidelines and obey the same rules and regulations;
  - Increased awareness of national issues and concerns on the international level, allowing for international cross-referencing and resource need identification;
  - Improved relationship between member countries due to improved communication;
  - Exchange of best practice information.
  
3. Resource availability **nationally** and **internationally** to address issues of systems and skills:
  - INTERPOL information and intelligence exchange networks, such as I-24/7, CCC and the Ecomessage;
  - Current existing assistance systems, such as the Palermo convention (The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime), can be used for joint investigations;
  - Events like the ICECE provide opportunities to establish availability of resources in different countries and how they can support countries where resources are limited;
  - There is a vast number of intelligence courses and training at a variety of cost. However, a balance must be found between quality and cost as low cost intelligence may result in low quality intelligence but costs can vary depending on the country and its resources;
  - INTERPOL's existing environmental communication system should act as a central entity to store and process information from various channels, to facilitate efficient dissemination through a standardized approach in order to overcome national differences and facilitate national communication and information exchange on an international level, assisting particularly where political ties between countries are weak.
  
4. Opportunities for improvement:
  - There is a need for increased information and intelligence exchange between national environmental and government agencies and INTERPOL NCBs via secure INTERPOL communication systems, such as I-24/7 and Ecomessage;
  - There is a need for consistent input from member countries following procedures and guidelines set by INTERPOL and consistency in intelligence processing and dissemination;
  - Leaders of environmental compliance and enforcement agencies should evaluate current established national intelligence to identify their current intelligence needs including training, capacity building, and resources and effectively utilize INTERPOL for international assistance;
  - There is a need for a review of the performance and development of the environmental intelligence process to ascertain the level of awareness and participation of member countries in international environmental intelligence exchange and identify areas for improvement.

## Conclusions and recommendations

Since its creation in 2009, INTERPOL ECP has attempted to enhance and support the global environmental intelligence management process and assist in overcoming conflict of interest in intelligence sharing between countries. The performance and development of this process has been reported in the Programme's quarterly intelligence reports, which have been disseminated to all 190 member countries' NCBs. The sharp increase in environmental intelligence sharing recorded by INTERPOL ECP in 2011 indicates a growing level of awareness among member countries of the need to share information and make this available for international cross-referencing and analysis. Best practices from a selected number of member countries prove that international secure systems and procedures are in place and can operate effectively. However, inconsistency in conceptual approaches and intelligence management maturity is one reason for variation between member countries' methods of collecting, processing, and disseminating information to INTERPOL's environmental intelligence services.

The session concluded that:

- Increased national, regional, and international communication is vital to building intelligence and intelligence products for strategic and tactical intelligence-led environmental enforcement;
- To combat environmental crime efficiently and effectively, environmental law enforcement needs to adopt a more pro-active intelligence-led approach, allocating resources to support information activities;
- Member country variations in conceptual approaches, information management maturity, and participation and performance levels in the international environmental intelligence process demonstrate the need for increased political awareness and departmental support to enable the effective implementation of intelligence led-enforcement, including process design, change management, and investment in people, skills, and systems;
- The variety in national intelligence models could be made uniform international by member countries if they implemented existing international intelligence sharing guidelines;
- Improved international information management is necessary to support and enhance member country environmental law enforcement at strategic, tactical and operational levels;
- Member countries and partner organizations need to support the development of international information and intelligence exchange by supplying information to INTERPOL via the information exchange systems.

## *IV. Capacity Building Standards*

Capacity Building Standards are intended to provide consistent guidelines for developing specific instructional plans and assessment strategies for particular subject areas. Governments and institutions worldwide provide a variety of environmental enforcement training and capacity building programmes in order to increase awareness and develop effective enforcement strategies. However, without coordination among providers to ensure consistency there is a risk that these efforts are contradictory or duplicated. Furthermore, although standardization can improve the efficiency of capacity building, there is also a need to promote innovation so these efforts remain effective and up to date.

This theme was designed to provide delegates the opportunity to evaluate the volume of current capacity building standards and discuss the benefits of a potential standard approach to international compliance and enforcement capacity building.

### **The Panel**

The Capacity Building Standards panel was chaired by Ms. Ignacia Moreno the Assistant Attorney General of Department of Justice of the United States of America, with panel members Mr. Eugene Mazur from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Mr. Andreas Hardeman of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and with support from Mr. Davyth Stewart from the INTERPOL ECP. The panel presentations and discussions covered three main topics: definition of capacity building standards; common issues that capacity building standards can address, and; availability of resources.

**Mr. Eugene Mazur** introduced the OECD, which has a strong environmental program, and outlined its capacity building activities with both member and non-member countries. The main challenges faced in capacity building are lack of subject knowledge and appropriate competence, unsystematic training, high frequency of staff turnover, frequently changing legislations, particularly in the developing world, poor institutional performance, lack of political will, and declining motivation to budget funding. Furthermore, differences in conceptualizing environmental crime make it difficult to ensure a uniform standard in capacity building processes. Mr. Mazur discussed solutions available within the framework of OECD and other established networks, and encouraged environmental inspectorates to assess staff training needs, review areas for ability and aptitude training, and communicate with stakeholders to ensure an administrative response to capacity building is high on the political agenda.

**Mr. Andreas Hardeman** shared IATA's experience in capacity building using examples from the airline industry in setting safety standards to ensure hazardous materials do not enter aircraft, emphasizing the importance of information exchange and the necessity of recurrent ongoing training. IATA cooperates with governments and conventions, including CITES, and has developed a number of environmental assessments and manuals aimed at staff and the public to raise awareness.

**Ms. Ignacia Moreno** suggested that capacity building is an important aspect to ensuring successful cooperation to bring offenders to justice. She also highlighted the need for systematic review coupled with a needs assessment, to identify training available from partner agencies. She concluded that there are resources available, but agencies need to take initiative to assess what resources are available nationally and how this can be used to support and enhance international capacity building.

## Discussion

Following panel presentations, delegates discussed the opportunities and obstacles for capacity building standards, how they can be addressed, and what a strong capacity building standard should entail. The following specific points were raised:

1. Current demand for capacity building standards in agencies and countries:

- There is a need to clarify the concept of capacity building standards - it is not merely subject-specific training, but also staff recruitment and motivation to ensure sustainability;
- There is a need for capacity building to overcome inconsistencies in both investigational and operational training within and between countries in approaching environmental crime as a mainstream crime, regardless of the type of environmental crime concerned;
- While there is a high availability of environmental training courses around the world, there is a need to improve the efficiency of capacity building by increased inter-agency and inter-government coordination and systematic review to decrease duplication of efforts;
- There is a need for international assistance to ensure continuity in capacity building internationally, regionally and between neighbouring countries.

2. Obstacles in developing **national** (inter-agency) and/or **international** capacity building standard:

- Lack of political will, understaffing and underfunding in some regions undermines capacity building;
- Although there are a number of capacity building networks in some countries, there are duplication of efforts and lack of periodic review to ensure efficiency and consistency;
- Different priority crime areas and varying law enforcement tactics lead to inconsistencies in capacity building nationally and inter-organizationally;
- With a myriad of training and capacity building development worldwide, evaluating best practices is challenging as their definition will depend on the priorities of nations and organizations.

3. Opportunities to develop **national** (inter-agency) and/or **international** capacity building standards:

- In developing effective national capacity building standards, sharing of best practices is important;
- With a wide range of training available, there is a need for a review and assessment of availability of resources nationally and internationally;
- While an international baseline for capacity building is an ambitious step, starting off at the local level, then moving to a national and then regional level can be a way forward;
- International engagement introduces new best practices alongside unique experience and expertise, all of which can be shared among other participating agencies either directly or through INTERPOL.

4. Resource availability **nationally** and **internationally** for capacity building standardization:

- As presented by delegates during the panel session, there is a vast amount of capacity building availability;
- National and international organizations provide in-house and outsourced training to support and encourage participation in and reduce the costs of capacity building;
- International capacity building templates are available from a number of national and inter-governmental organizations, including INTERPOL and the UN, and member countries are encouraged to use them;
- While a standardized baseline is important in order to ensure uniformity and best practices, there is a need to remain flexible to the individual needs of nations and organizations dealing with particular aspects of environmental crime and allow space for adjustments and tailoring.

5. Opportunities for improvement:

- National agencies need to review their environmental compliance and enforcement training and capacity building programs to assess overlaps and areas for improvement;
- Inter-governmental organizations should review the current international environmental capacity building standards in order to move towards a flexible uniform capacity building platform;
- There should be a clearing house collecting information about the vast variety of environmental training and capacity building programs to ensure worldwide consistency in environmental capacity building standards.



## Conclusions and recommendations

INTERPOL and UNEP, along with a multitude of other inter-governmental and national organizations, and established conventions and networks, are actively involved in providing assistance and guidance on capacity building standards. This wide international engagement introduces new best practices alongside unique yet applicable experience and expertise. Despite the challenges associated with the lack of political will, funding limitations, and conflicting priorities, the involvement of INTERPOL presents an opportunity to achieve consistency in capacity building standards around the world to improve efficiency, reduce duplication of efforts, and allow better coordinated intelligence sharing and collaborative operational responses to environmental crime. However, this can only be successful through higher engagement and cooperation with member countries and partner agencies.

The panel agreed that there is a strong need for further discussion on this topic and concluded that:

- Capacity building is an essential element to the successful development of agencies' powers and abilities to combat environmental crime in its many forms;
- There is a vast variety of environmental compliance and enforcement training and capacity building approaches available in different countries to support environmental security;
- There is a need for systematic evaluation and periodic assessment of national, regional and international environmental compliance and enforcement training and capacity building strategies and identification of available resources;
- Although an ambitious step, a uniform standard and approach to capacity building is needed to provide a common baseline or platform for development;
- Existing mandated inter-governmental organizations should play a leading role in supporting development of a uniform capacity building strategy;
- Member countries and partner organizations should support the development of a suitable global platform to ensure the movement towards more uniform environmental compliance and enforcement training and capacity building strategies.

## V. *Effective Networks*

No agency or organization works in isolation thanks to constant communications links with other entities and agencies. Networks are crucial for communication; they are the links through which information is shared, efforts are coordinated, and cooperation is planned. Formal networks are particularly important for law enforcement due to the need to exchange sensitive information over secure channels of communication. However, truly effective networks entail and provide much more: they provide opportunities to build relationships and partnerships, exchange best practice information, and overcome obstacles to cooperation with respect to the effective enforcement of environmental laws.

The overall objective of this theme was to decide on the key elements required for effective networks, to consider the current regional and international approaches to environmental compliance and enforcement networks, to recognize factors that enable and inhibit networks, and to develop a collaborative strategy for enforcement networks.

### **The Panel**

The panel was opened by Mr. Giuliano Zaccardelli, Director of INTERPOL Strategic Planning Directorate, chaired by Ms. Kimberly Dripps, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (DSEWPaC) of Australia, and consisted of Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Principal Advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and Former Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim, Director for Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Mr. Grant Pink, Director of Regulatory Compliance Policy and Practice of DSEWPaC Australia.

**Mr. Giuliano Zaccardelli** emphasized the role of strategic planning in our everyday lives and the importance of seeing the big picture rather than doing something because “it is in our nature.” While there is often a need to tackle new emerging issues from a local or national level, it is sometimes equally important to look at the same issue from a global perspective. While INTERPOL provides a structure that has been able to assist the conducting of cross border law enforcement activities it has been the use of strategic planning, intelligence gathering, and sharing at every step of the way, that has resulted in the global law enforcement community joining together to generate a strategic plan in response to international organized crime.

**Ms. Kimberley Dripps** introduced Australia’s DSEWPaC and explained its role in enforcing environmental legislation and its leadership and oversight of the establishment, growth and maintenance of AELERT, a regional environmental enforcement network. She outlined the importance of DSEWPaC’s mutually beneficial relationship with the Australian INTERPOL NCB and how member agencies of the AELERT network were able to become involved and contribute to national, regional and international environmental enforcement operations. She reminded participants that networks should not be built or participated in just to network but that network activity should be built around an important goal or challenge.

**Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry** discussed global networks focusing on waste management and the need to have an effective network in each country to support international networks, such as the Basel Convention. However, to make the network effective, member countries must have a competent national authority whose role is to ensure the convention's procedures are complied with. These authorities can create an informal network to facilitate non-sensitive information exchange.

**Ms. Theresa Mundita Lim** discussed the challenge faced by many countries due to a lack of staff resources and the need to use established networks for support. In south-east Asia, wildlife crime is a major threat to biodiversity, impacts local communities, and damages the food chain. In addition to being a consumer of illegal wildlife commodities, the region is also a transit point for wildlife trafficking. Due to the region's wide geographical area, established networks, such as ASEAN-WEN, dedicated to combating wildlife crime are fundamental, as is support from organizations such as INTERPOL, WCO and CITES.

**Mr. Grant Pink** discussed the utility of environmental enforcement networks as he presented his research findings including theories and concepts for successful environmental enforcement networks. The presentation outlined strategies on how to increase the benefits of network membership. Five stages of network maturity were discussed and the possibility for the effectiveness of networks to be evaluated at each stage of maturity through the application of the Network Evaluation Matrix was discussed. He concluded that when evaluating the success of networks, it is important to consider both the tangible and intangible benefits.

## Discussion

Panel presentations were followed by discussion of the key elements of effective networks, current regional and international approaches to environmental compliance and enforcement networks, factors that enable and inhibit networks, and a collaborative strategy for enforcement networks. The discussions generated the following outcomes:

1. *Demand for national, regional, and/or international networks and their areas of focus:*
  - There is a need for new and/or improved networks to deal with new statutes and regulations, focused especially on closing borders against certain commodities, such as e-waste;
  - Regional networks (based on language, commodity, or other metric as appropriate) are often more successful than wider international networks;
  - A specific forum for chiefs and heads in addition to Environmental Crime Committee and Working Groups could be developed;
  - A 'network of networks' could be developed to allow engagement at different national, regional, and international levels;
  - There is a potential need for a network to develop mining and industrial standards.

2. Objectives of network participation:

- Building relationships and partnerships, increasing cooperation, and reducing the risks associated with the handling and exchange of sensitive information;
- Increasing and improving communications between stakeholders in the environmental compliance and enforcement arena;
- Allowing involvement from other law enforcement areas, such as the police, judiciary and customs;
- Facilitating information exchange on best practices in areas of mutual interest;
- Allowing communication among individuals working towards the same outcome.

3. Main obstacles to network participation:

- A lack of political will for international engagement, cooperation, and coordination;
- Continuous need to address the 'value proposition' of networks and networking;
- Differing environmental crime priorities and the usefulness of joining a network if its objective are not a national priority;
- Weaknesses and differences in environmental laws and enforcement between countries;
- Availability of resources.

4. Resources needed to effectively participate in national, regional, and/or international networks:

- The facilitation of electronic meetings and networking, though differences in technological advancement between countries may cause difficulties in telecommunication;
- There is a need to continue to support facilitation of face-to-face meetings;
- More information as to what networks already exist;
- Increase in human resources;
- Increased political will nationally, regionally and internationally.

5. Opportunities for improvement:

- The 1st ICECE demonstrates that there are still specific environmental crime areas that need to be addressed through networks, noting ICCWC and its important role in the fight against wildlife crime;
- There is a need to ascertain the level of the networks required to address environmental crime problem areas, e.g. national, regional, or global; formal or informal; and policy, intelligence or enforcement focused;
- Existing networks need to better communicate their activities to maintain efficiency;
- INTERPOL and other inter-governmental organizations can assist in identifying the networks available to address member country needs and provide existing networks with institutional support;
- INTERPOL, member countries, and environmental organizations need to continue raising awareness of available environmental networks.

## Conclusions and recommendations

There are now more and more opportunities and abilities for networks to expand in line with technological developments and professional relationships which can be built through platforms such as virtual meeting places, libraries, and working spaces. This advanced and cost-effective communication technology offers possibilities to communicate directly with colleagues around the world without leaving the office. Yet, the need to meet periodically face-to-face remains a critical component of effective networks.

The panel concluded that:

- Coordinated networks, overseen both independently and by INTERPOL, have facilitated cooperation between law enforcement and compliance agencies with different jurisdictions and specialties to form tight national, regional, and international nets against environmental criminals;
- There is a vital need for networking between inter-governmental organizations, countries, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector concerning environmental compliance and enforcement;
- Member countries should conduct environmental scans of existing networks to determine the appropriate national investment and engagement based on the service provided;
- Member countries need to be consistent in their participation in and commitment to networks that they engage with and provide suitable support and guidance to ensure the networks remain relevant;
- Existing networks must plan and communicate their activities to remain effective and efficient;
- Inter-governmental organizations should provide institutional support to networks;
- Networks should be built into existing inter-governmental bodies or developed in a manner that ensures that they have sustainability and continuing relevance to their field;
- INTERPOL, inter-governmental organizations and member countries must increase and strengthen communications and information exchange, to securely manage intelligence through networks and ensure modern practices in doing so.

## Commodities

Environmental crime is a serious and continuously growing international problem, it takes many different forms and has far-reaching direct and indirect, and often long term consequences. Depending on the magnitude and severity of an environmental incident, there is a threat that environmental crime can disturb, erode and even destroy a nation's economy, security or governance. The impacts of environmental crime can be felt in many ways, from the depletion of natural resources to the destruction of habitat and even human health.

Environmental crime crosses all areas of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. It includes, but is not limited to crimes such as the illegal trade in flora and fauna; natural resource theft; over-exploitation of fishing grounds and marine resource; illegal logging and deforestation; pollution of air, water and soil. In addition, new types of environmental crime, such as carbon trade and water management crime, are emerging, creating a critical treat to bio-security and contributing to climate change.

It is a type of crime that is not restricted by borders, as criminals move across continents or establish wide criminal networks to carry out environmental crimes, drawn by the low risk and high profit nature of the crime. In today's global economy, there is a need for a strengthened international strategy to deal with this type of crime. The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit provided a unique opportunity for the international chiefs of environmental compliance and enforcement to come together to discuss national issues in an international forum. The commodity specific side-meetings were structured into four environmental crime areas and designed to address national compliance and enforcement strategies in the fields of:

- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Pollution
- Wildlife

Each commodity specific side-meeting allowed the attending delegates to raise issues of national concern and evaluate possible strategies to address these issues from an international perspective. The outcomes of the meetings clearly illustrate the need for environmental law enforcement agencies to be closer linked together in a multi-disciplinary manner, nationally, regionally and internationally.

## I. Fisheries



Fisheries crime is a form of environmental crime that is receiving increasing international attention. The value of fish as a commodity has caused an escalation in transnational and organized criminal networks engaged in fisheries crime over the past decade. As a result, world fish stocks are rapidly being depleted and valuable species are nearly extinct. Fisheries crime undermines resource conservation, threatens food security and livelihoods, is linked to up- and down-stream crimes including money laundering, fraud, human trafficking and drugs trafficking, and is destabilizing vulnerable coastal regions, such as West Africa, due to its close links with corruption.

The INTERPOL ad hoc Fisheries Crimes Working Group (FCWG) was established during the INTERPOL 17<sup>th</sup> Pollution Crime and 23<sup>rd</sup> Wildlife Crime Working Group meetings held between 13 and 17 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting addressed key issues including the current state of illegal fishing and crime detection and prevention strategies, resulting in the creation of a road map for a working group focused on illegal fisheries, particularly in West African coastal states<sup>2</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE commodity-specific meeting provided an opportunity for discussion among senior level law enforcement and compliance officials and delegates not present during the creation of FCWG in Thailand to decide on a common direction and identify areas and opportunities for new projects.

### Emerging issues from environmental compliance and enforcement community

Attended by delegates from 11 member countries as well as inter-governmental observers from INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Central Africa (based in Yaoundé) and the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species, the side-meeting offered the opportunity to have focused discussions relating to fisheries crime on strategic and emerging issues of common interest to affected member countries.

The group acknowledged that the overall strategic objective must be to prevent the theft of marine resources and reduce proceeds from criminal or uncontrolled activities related to fisheries crime and aquaculture crime in flag states, coastal states, port states, market states, and tax havens. The following challenges related to fisheries law enforcement were identified in the sessions:

- Fisheries crime is increasingly organized and transnational in nature and has links to other forms of crime including human trafficking, trafficking in illegal drugs, tax and customs fraud, money laundering, and corruption;
- There is a significant lack of law enforcement from some flag states and a lack of coordinated law enforcement action between agencies both within and among states;
- There is a lack of information and communication regarding vessel beneficial ownership due to secrecy and the tendency to register under “flags of convenience” or statelessness;

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<sup>2</sup> For further information please refer to item ICECE 1/18: Pollution, Wildlife and Fisheries Working Group Meetings Report at <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Conferences-and-meetings/Meetings/International-Chiefs-of-Environmental-Compliance-and-Enforcement>

identification of vessel and product movements; criminal activities relating to vessel identity, including renaming, re-flagging, obtaining false licenses, and using other falsified documents;

- The limited resources of some countries and states to conduct controls, monitoring and surveillance of potentially large areas of sea;
- Inadequate analytical capacity, particularly the inability to convert intelligence data into actions and results, to ensure that actions are focused on priorities and strategic goals;
- The need to raise awareness of the importance of fisheries conservation in order to address the social acceptance of illegal fishing activities in some countries, to strengthen cooperation among states regarding the strategic understanding of global trends and issues, and to address the underlying drivers of fisheries crime such as education and poverty;
- The lack and/or inconsistency in the criminalization and punishment of activities relating to fisheries crimes in certain countries (e.g. shark finning).

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The Fisheries Crime side-meeting supported the work of the ad hoc FCWG and fully endorsed the road-map outlined in the formation meeting report from Bangkok. In recognizing the increasingly organized national and transnational nature of fisheries crime and its links to other types of national and transnational criminal activities, the following conclusions and recommendations emerged:

- INTERPOL should provide its expertise, such as capacity building and operational support, ensuring strong and effective networks and providing tactical and strategic information exchange;
- Fisheries law enforcement community nationally, regionally and globally should adapt the use of INTERPOL's existing communication and intelligence sharing databases to improve analytical and trend identification capabilities;
- The INTERPOL ECP has a guiding role in addressing fisheries crime, raising awareness of related issues on the international arena and providing necessary support to the member countries necessary to combat and prevent fisheries crime;
- The ad hoc FCWG should increase its role and involvement in providing guidance on fisheries enforcement issues, including developing appropriate governance documents, such as terms of reference and strategic plan, leading up to the establishment of the formal FCWG;
- The FCWG will act as a hub for fisheries crime issues and out-reach, as necessary, to relevant international organizations, including UN Food and Agriculture Organization, International Maritime Organization, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, UNODC, WCO, CITES and UNEP, to ensure international coherence;
- The international chiefs of environmental compliance and enforcement should support the INTERPOL ECP and the work of FCWG by encouraging cooperation between local, national and regional fisheries enforcement authorities and the NCBs.



## II. Forestry



Forests are vital components of the world's ecosystem and provide ecosystem services such as supply and filtration of water resources, food security and pharmaceutical products, supporting a wide range of livelihoods. Criminal gangs involved in the exploitation of forests are not only responsible for depriving the environment of one of its vital components, but are also involved in a variety of other crimes including, corruption, fraud, money laundering, extortion, and even murder. In the past two decades, a series of national and international efforts have been developed to address the issue of illegal logging, such as the EU FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) and the UN-led REDD/REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation), as well as legislation in individual countries, such as the United States Lacey Act. However, coordinated international investigations and enforcement efforts remain weak.

INTERPOL's Project LEAF<sup>3</sup> (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests), addresses illegal logging, the international trade and trafficking in illegally harvested timber, and other crimes relating to the exploitation of forestry resources with the aim to prevent the destruction of forest ecosystems and assist countries in meeting international forest sustainability and climate change mitigation commitments. The Project brings together different national law enforcement agencies concerned with forest crime to work as part of National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs), both regionally and internationally. Intelligence gathered and submitted by these agencies through INTERPOL NCBs will be used to build a global picture of illegal logging, criminal groups involved, key individual criminals, their modus operandi and their international links. This intelligence will also be used to guide operations to suppress illegal logging and trafficking. Capacity building and training in member countries is also a priority to ensure a strong and coordinated holistic response to the numerous crimes perpetrated by organized gangs engaged in illegal logging and international timber trafficking. The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit was the first opportunity for INTERPOL and UNEP officials overseeing Project LEAF to meet with representatives of member countries and inter-governmental agencies concerned with forestry and to launch the Project.

### Emerging issues from environmental compliance and enforcement community

The side-meetings on forestry were first conducted as a group meeting and then subsequently broke off into one-on-one discussions with delegates to address individual agency needs. Discussions on illegal logging were conducted with several international agencies present, as well as individual delegates from agencies in countries including Brazil, Burundi, France, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Informal discussions were also conducted with CITES, UNODC, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Given the diversity of agencies represented at the Forestry side-meetings and their responsibilities, discussions focused primarily on existing gaps in REDD, FLEGT and certification schemes in reducing illegal logging, gaps in current law enforcement efforts to combat illegal logging, and member country needs and expectations of INTERPOL.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information, please visit <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-LEAF>

The following specific points were raised:

- Many countries face challenges in accessing funds for enforcement and investigative efforts with funds mainly targeted for non-enforcement purposes;
- While many source countries for illegal timber have had successes in combating the crime, they face increasing challenges from the more advanced methods of laundering timber, tax fraud, and organized crime;
- There are serious challenges in obtaining data and intelligence on laundering and the exports of illegally logged or produced wood products due to lack of investigation;
- Many transit and/or destination countries have legislation against illegally sourced timber, but lack data and intelligence on the details of illegally logged or processed wood products;
- Many destination countries expressed the need for evidence on the conscious complicity of western-based companies or smugglers in order to conduct operations and undertake prosecution;
- Some countries have methodologies in place, including satellite imagery, tagging techniques, and operational systems that could be applied effectively also in other countries to reduce illegal logging;
- Short-term operations have limited effect unless combined with advanced national and international investigative schemes.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The discussions demonstrated a clear need for greater international coordination, collaboration, and communication in law enforcement and compliance efforts against illegal logging to ensure high-level components of the criminal networks are targeted. The following issues were discussed:

- The level of organized crime and ability for criminals to launder wood and bypass international voluntary trade agreements is substantial;
- There is difficulty in accessing resources, such as through REDD, to direct investigative and enforcement efforts in law enforcement sectors, needed to reduce the illegal logging and particularly the networks behind it;
- There is a need for strengthened collaboration between inter-governmental organizations, including INTERPOL, the WCO, the World Bank, MEAs, and the UN, to provide more advanced support on intelligence, capacity building, and investigation in addition to ensuring support for the full law enforcement chain;
- Member country compliance and enforcement agencies dealing with forestry issues should strengthen their relationship with INTERPOL through each country's NCB;
- INTERPOL should coordinate and, where appropriate provide, in-country capacity building and-train the-trainer programs to combat illegal logging and the organized crime involved;
- INTERPOL should increase the facilitation of international intelligence sharing, in particular analysis;
- International sharing of best-practices and methodologies in addition to direct collaboration between countries should be increased and facilitated by INTERPOL.

### III. *Pollution*

Pollution crime has a clear and direct human impact due to the hazardous nature of the substances in question. In addition to its detrimental effect on human health, the illegal disposal of waste into waterways, the air, and the ground can significantly damage livelihoods, destroy jobs, and lower property values. The effect of pollution crime on the natural environment can be global, and contributes directly to the worldwide issue of climate change.

The INTERPOL Pollution Crime Working Group<sup>4</sup> (PCWG) was established to initiate and lead a number of projects to combat the transport, trading and disposal of hazardous wastes and/or resources in contravention of national and international laws. PCWG brings together specialized criminal investigators from around the world to work on project-based activities on an international level and encourage participation from environmental experts across the world in order to maximize the global impact of current projects and to devise new initiatives. These projects currently include the INTERPOL Global E-waste Crime Group, Project Clean Seas, Climate Change Crime and Corruption, and Pollution Crime Forensics. Attending the side-meeting on pollution crime related topics provided an invaluable opportunity for senior level engagement with not only the work of PCWG, but also an opportunity to evaluate the global response to pollution crime from a national perspective and make recommendations for future strategies.



#### **Emerging issues from environmental compliance and enforcement community**

Attended by delegates from 21 countries as well as a representative from an inter-governmental organization, EUROJUST, the side-meeting discussed strategies and operations of common interest. The group acknowledged PCWG's previous tangible successes, including the publication of investigative manuals, the development of training courses a prosecution database, intelligence products, urgent response support through its network and cooperative agreements with key stakeholders.

With a focus on future projects and further steps to combat pollution crime, there was a consensus among the delegates that there is a need for high-level awareness and departmental support for participation by expert staff in the PCWG from more countries around the world, including countries that had no representation at the meetings.

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<sup>4</sup> For further information please refer to item ICECE 1/18: Pollution, Wildlife and Fisheries Working Group Meetings Report at <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Conferences-and-meetings/Meetings/International-Chiefs-of-Environmental-Compliance-and-Enforcement>

Further issues were reviewed including:

- The current use of communication systems and established networks;
- Calls for each country to contribute their current experience and best practices;
- The need to raise awareness of the existence of PCWG in other environmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies;
- The need to increase cooperation with key countries to strengthen collaboration in areas including investigative support, information exchange, operations and capacity building;
- The need to increase cooperation between environmental and law enforcement communities to increase awareness of pollution crime cases, prioritize pollution crime, and increase penalties available for pollution crimes.

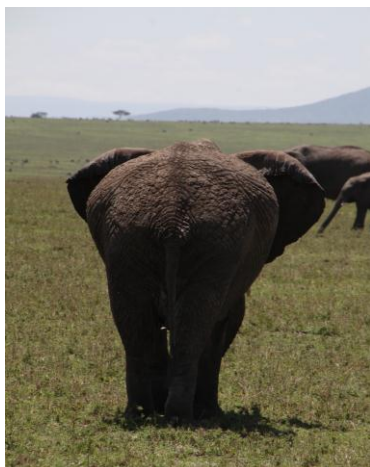
## Conclusions and Recommendations

The need for a greater input from all stakeholders, including INTERPOL, the PCWG, and the community of chiefs of environmental compliance and enforcement agencies was one of the main points of discussion. The general concern over the lack of awareness and lack of political will with regards to pollution law enforcement generated a number of crucial discussion points and issues for consideration and improvement, particularly with regard to the roles of the different agencies and departments involved.

Following conclusions and recommendations emerged:

- INTERPOL should expand its role in providing expertise, such as capacity building and operational support; ensuring strong and effective networks; providing tactical and strategic intelligence; providing a transparent funding strategy; and present concrete examples of INTERPOL's support;
- The INTERPOL ECP should increase its role in addressing pollution crime, raising awareness of related issues on the international arena and providing necessary support to the member countries with regards to information, tactics, and strategies regarding combating and preventing pollution crime;
- The PCWG should increase its role in providing guidance on pollution enforcement issues, including examples of successful cases; promoting the exchange and analysis of intelligence of pollution crime; assisting in identifying emerging areas and trends; encouraging member states' participation; assisting with capacity building through regional trainings; and develop projects to support pollution crime law enforcement;
- The international chiefs of environmental compliance and enforcement should support the INTERPOL ECP and PCWG by raising the national profile of pollution crime and developing commitments to combat pollution crime across borders;
- National agencies should encourage and enable staff to fully engage in combating and preventing pollution crime, encourage INTERPOL to strengthen the institutional position of environmental crime, and ensure the sharing of information and intelligence between countries through the INTERPOL communication systems, including Ecomessages;
- The international chiefs of environmental compliance and enforcement endorsed the projects currently being undertaken by the PCWG.

## IV. *Wildlife*



The overall negative effects of wildlife crime, including the killing of tigers, pangolin poaching, and the trade in illegal ivory, rhino horn, or rare birds are not limited to individual nations, and can lead to the extinction of species, loss of biodiversity, and cause serious damage to ecosystems that support human existence. In addition, the routes used to smuggle wildlife across countries and continents are often used to smuggle weapons, drugs and people. Indeed, environmental crime often occurs hand-in-hand with other offences, such as fraud, corruption, money laundering and murder.

Given the nature and scale of the risk posed to biodiversity by illegal trade in wildlife, it is now acknowledged that a more organized and sophisticated response needs to be taken by the law enforcement community to tackling the problem. In recognition of this pressing need, five international organizations joined forces in late 2010 to create the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. ICCWC exists to support those officers serving in the front line in carrying out their essential duties – and in doing so to work with regional wildlife enforcement networks. ICCWC seeks to ensure that perpetrators of serious wildlife crimes will face a more formidable and coordinated response, rather than the present situation where the risk of detection and punishment is all too low.

The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) was established in response to concerns over these and other crimes occurring at an international level and brings together specialized criminal investigators from around the world to work on project-based activities. The Group initiates and leads a number of projects to combat the poaching, trafficking, or possession of legally protected flora and fauna in support of the INTERPOL ECP's Projects WISDOM<sup>5</sup> and PREDATOR<sup>6</sup> and related operations.

### **Emerging issues from environmental compliance and enforcement community**

The side-meeting concerning wildlife crime issues was attended by delegates from 19 countries to engage in discussion project-specific topics and outstanding and emerging issues. This meeting was a rare opportunity for senior compliance and enforcement officers to gather face-to-face and discuss strategies for wildlife crime detection and prevention that can be implemented by INTERPOL, partner organizations and member countries.

The participants acknowledged the past successes of the INTERPOL ECP leadership and engagement in operations against wildlife crime around the world, encouraged increased involvement in operational management, and noted the importance of increasing the flow and exchange of information between the INTERPOL General Secretariat, INTERPOL NCBs and wildlife enforcement and compliance agencies. Group discussions generated the following points:

- Wildlife crime impacts local communities that rely on animals and plants for subsistence, and poses a great threat to biodiversity locally, nationally, regionally and internationally;
- There are many problems associated with wildlife crime identification and priority setting at national, regional, and global levels;

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-WISDOM>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-PREDATOR>

- There is an inadequate level of political awareness and will to engage in work against wildlife crime on a national level;
- There is a lack of momentum for stronger cross border cooperation and collaboration;
- Communication strategies are insufficient to facilitate strong information and intelligence exchange;
- The cross-border information exchange between forensic laboratories is limited, with challenges associated with costs, training, and links between practitioners and scientists.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The discussion points were collectively supported by the delegates present in the side-meetings and the need to achieve a solution and target problem areas in order to strengthen the collective efforts in fighting wildlife crime nationally and internationally was established. An important point of consideration raised was the differing levels and prevalence of certain types of wildlife crimes between countries, generating the need for region-specific cooperation in addition to national and international approaches. The conclusions focused on the challenges most countries face, including the lack of staff resources, training, research, and funding. The group concluded that:

- There is a need for increased efforts from member states in compliance and enforcement related to wildlife crime, including capacity building and public awareness campaigns;
- A strategic Steering Committee should be established to guide INTERPOL in wildlife crime problem identification and priority setting;
- Regional INTERPOL committees should be created to identify local priorities for wildlife crime prevention and to develop strategies for targeting markets in addition to suppliers;
- Strategies should be developed to engage the judiciary with INTERPOL and other environmental and law enforcement networks, such as CITES, ASEAN WEN, SAWEN, USAID ARREST and WCO;
- Member countries and the WCWG should review costs and funding opportunities to establish and develop regional expert forensic networks, laboratories, and possibilities for DNA testing and should develop links between law enforcement and scientists;
- INTERPOL should review the possibility of creating a DNA database and the possibility of creating an internal forum for communication between law enforcement agencies and wildlife laboratories internationally.



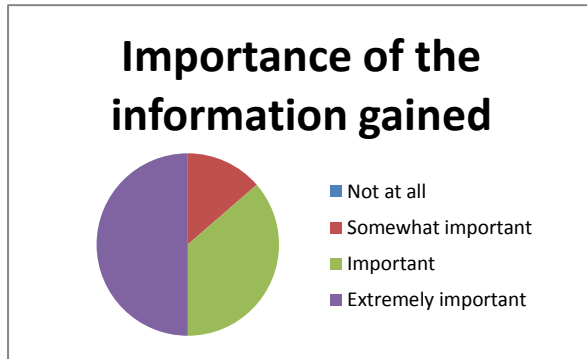
## APPENDIX 1: 1st ICECE Summit – Represented countries

The 1<sup>st</sup> ICECE Summit was attended by delegates from:

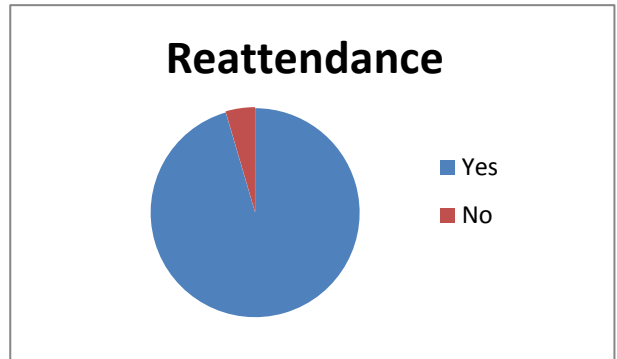
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>Mexico</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Namibia</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>
<b>Bahrain</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Norway</b>
<b>Botswana</b>	<b>Oman</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Panama</b>
<b>Burundi</b>	<b>Philippines</b>
<b>Cape Verde</b>	<b>Poland</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Qatar</b>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Colombia</b>	<b>Russian Federation</b>
<b>Congo</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Ecuador</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>Tchad</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>
<b>Iran</b>	<b>Turkey</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>United States of America</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>

## APPENDIX 2: Feedback Form Report

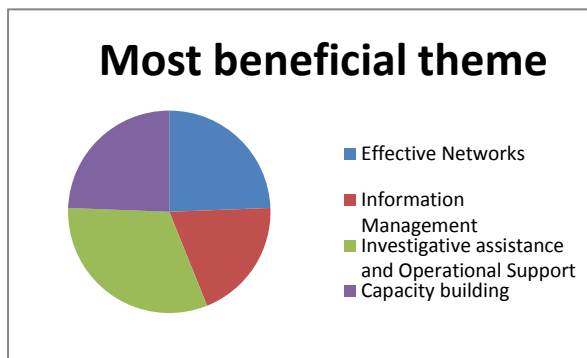
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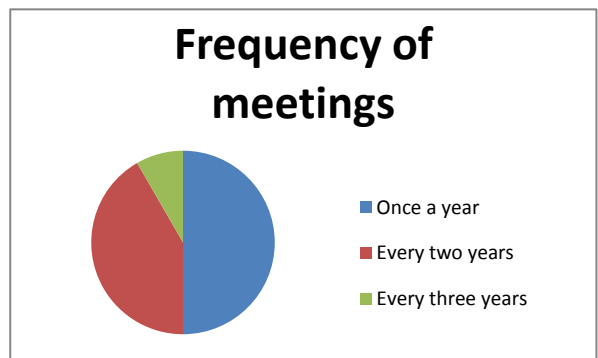
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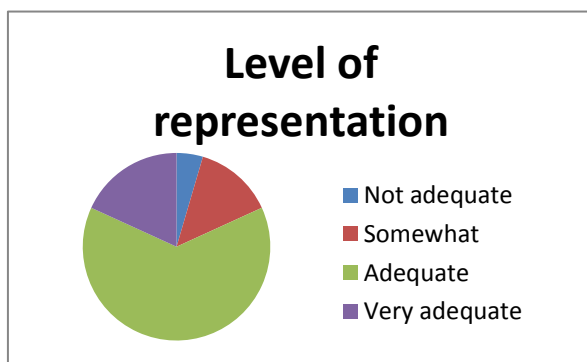
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2.5.



2.3.



## LIST OF COMMON ACRONYMS

- ASEAN WEN** - Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network
- CCC** - Command Co-ordination Centre
- CITES** - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- CMS** - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- DSEWPaC** - Deputy Secretary of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities
- ECP** - Environmental Crime Programme
- ESPU** - Endangered Species Protection Unit
- EU FLEGT** - European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
- FCWG** - Fisheries Crimes Working Group
- IATA** - International Air Transport Association
- ICCWC** - International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
- ICECE** - International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
- IFAW** - International Fund for Animal Welfare
- INTERPOL** – International Criminal Police Organization
- LEAF** - Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests
- MEAs** - Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- NESTs** - National Environmental Security Task Forces
- NGO** - Non-Governmental Organization
- OECD** – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- PCWG** - Pollution Crime Working Group
- RBs** - Regional Bureaus
- SAWEN** – South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network
- UNEP** - United Nations Environment Programme
- UNICRI** - United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UNODC** - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- WCO** - World Customs Organization
- WCWG** – Wildlife Crime Working Group

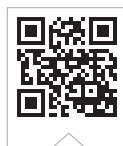




INTERPOL

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