



March 2011

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special editorial

At a time when environmental issues are covered increasingly in the media, I believe that this newsletter is unique. We are not alone in advocating law enforcement action against environmental crime, but we do so with the strength and backing of our 188 member countries. Not only does this newsletter reflect the collective impact of our member countries in the environmental enforcement arena, but it is a clear manifestation of the vision of INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme and its commitment to supporting global law enforcement efforts for the ongoing conservation of the world's environment, wildlife and natural resources.

The Environmental Crime Programme has made significant headway since its launch, with its role reinforced through the 2010 INTERPOL General Assembly Resolution on "Building a Sustainable Environmental Crime Programme". However, the Programme's future is still short-term, and there is an acute need for additional support on an international level.

I am confident that with the revitalized momentum towards environmental law enforcement and the creation of new and innovative alliances, such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), that INTERPOL – alongside major global players – will have a significant impact on reducing environmental crime. Throughout this year our Programme will once again be setting international trends and bringing together police, customs and environmental agencies in an unprecedented multi-disciplinary approach.

I would like to call on the support of environmental bodies around the world, as it is only with your help that we will be able to carry out our mission of combating environmental crime.

Finally I invite you to enjoy the following pages of this newsletter and learn more about our recent activities and upcoming events.

Jean-Michel Louboutin
Executive Director for Police Services
INTERPOL



ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME
IT'S GLOBAL THEFT



news

OPERATION REPORTS

The year 2010 was characterized by vigorous enforcement actions initiated by the Programme. We saw numerous investigations launched, inspections carried out, violations identified, illicit goods seized and criminals arrested. We can now announce the release of all Operation Reports and successes accomplished on the ground by participating member countries.

ICCWC

Launched in November 2010, the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is a new partnership with great value and which will give great impetus to collective action. It combines the forces of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), INTERPOL, the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013

With the start of the new year, we have renewed our mission to assist member countries in the effective enforcement of environmental laws and treaties. Our four strategic goals address the development of capacity at national levels, the exchange of sensitive information, operational support and opportunities to network in the environmental enforcement arena. The new Strategic Plan is intended to give a better insight and understanding of how INTERPOL fights crime and the current international challenges.

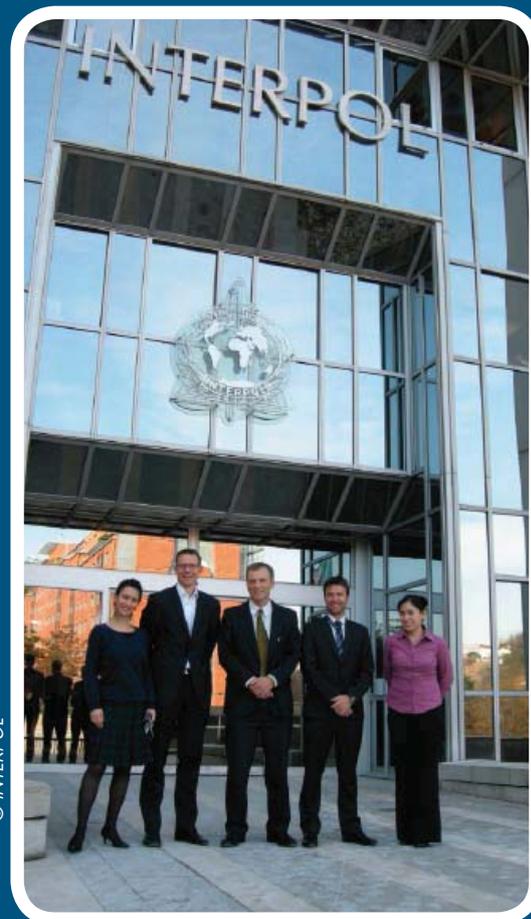
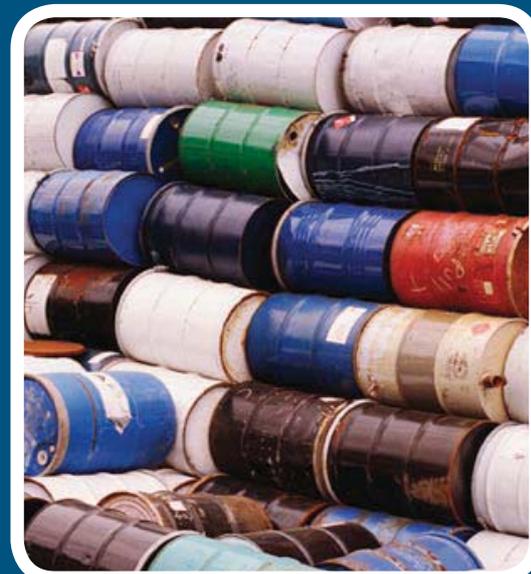
7TH GREEN CUSTOMS PARTNERS MEETING

In February, INTERPOL hosted the annual meeting of the Green Customs Initiative, co-ordinated by the United National Environment Programme. This event brought together the enforcement community, international organizations and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in order to facilitate their co-operation in preventing the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities. The two day meeting enabled the partners to agree on common activities, including e-learning modules and a series of integrated customs training workshops for developing countries.

OFFICIAL VISIT – AUSTRALIA

The Programme welcomed in December Mr Luke Bond, Principal Investigator in the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The purpose of this official visit was to exchange experiences and foster Australia's commitment to INTERPOL initiatives in environmental law enforcement.

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future events

Pollution Crime Forensics Conference

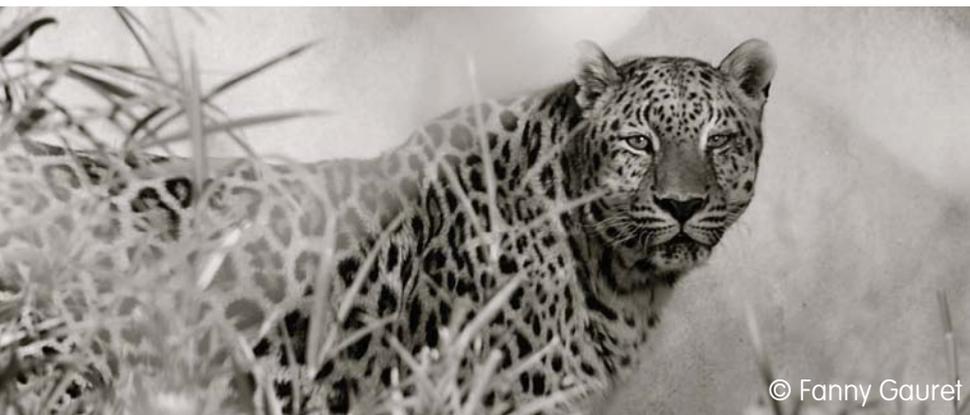
We are pleased to announce the Pollution Crime Forensics Conference which will be held in Lakewood, near Denver, Colorado, USA from 24 to 26 May 2011. This meeting will be co-hosted with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Our thanks go to the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training at the EPA for offering to support this important gathering. The purpose of this conference is first of all to provide a forum for environmental forensic scientists, investigators and prosecutors to exchange innovative techniques in the area of pollution-related criminal investigations. Secondly it aims to develop a basic pollution crime forensics manual to be used by developing programmes around the world to successfully prosecute these crimes in spite of limited resources.

High-level police and customs seminar

The Senior Experts Meeting of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), held at the end of February 2011 in Vienna, Austria, resulted in partners agreeing to a range of activities that will be jointly conducted during 2011. INTERPOL is co-ordinating a high-level police and customs seminar to be held in June this year for the 13 countries that have wild tiger populations. The location and date are yet to be determined. The seminar will outline the need for regional and international efforts to curb the impact of crime on the survival of tigers and will seek the relevant departmental support from member countries.

INTERPOL Wildlife and Pollution Crime Working Groups

November 2011 will see Thailand play host to the Wildlife and Pollution Crime Working Group meetings. Thailand is an appropriate location given its great biodiversity and cultural diversity. We were honoured to accept the invitation of the Thai delegation that attended the 7th International Conference on Environmental Crime in September 2010. The meeting's agendas are currently under development and will be announced in the coming months.



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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

• 3rd Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)

Maputo, Mozambique, February 2011

The workshop approached diverse subjects from solutions to combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing to cost-effective monitoring, control and surveillance technology.

• Enhancing the Effectiveness of Clean Seas Net

Lisbon, Portugal, February 2011

The conference recommended actions in order to improve the overall efficiency of the illegal discharge response chain and to set up a feedback mechanism on follow up actions.

• Official Launch of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network

Paro, Bhutan January 2011

INTERPOL provided input to the Expert Group which was attended by the CITES Secretariat and representatives of the World Bank, ASEAN-WEN PCU, USAID, US Department of State and TRAFFIC.

• National Consultancy on Wildlife Crime Enforcement

Colombo, Sri Lanka, January 2011

Agencies within the country are taking a proactive stance against wildlife crime by forming the Sri Lanka Wildlife Enforcement Network. INTERPOL welcomed the initiative.

• Annual Meeting of the North Sea Network for Prosecutors and Investigators

Paris, France, January 2011

INTERPOL and the Network discussed how to combine efforts on combating not only illegal oil discharges but also other forms of vessel pollution, such as chemical cargo washings and litter.

• Annual Meeting of the European Electronic Recyclers Association

Salzburg, Austria, January 2011

The event was a pre-meeting for the International Electronics Recycling Congress which will be held later in 2011.

• Wildlife Crime Law enforcement Training

Ha Long City, Vietnam, January 2011

This scenario-based training developed skills in proactive enforcement methods including interview techniques, surveillance, search and operational planning. Supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

• Transnational Mechanisms for Controlling Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Hanoi, Vietnam, November – December 2010
Organized by TRAFFIC and the Government of Vietnam. Key attendees included the INTERPOL National Central Bureau Vietnam, CITES Secretariat, UNODC, ASEAN-WEN, SAN-Parks, Forest Protection Department, Environmental Police, and the Border Army.

• The Dutch Environmental Crime Summit

Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, December 2010
Senior police and environmental agency representatives focused on improving communication, collaboration and co-ordination.



programme updates

Intelligence-led policing is being implemented increasingly in all regions of the world and at all levels: from local policing, partnerships and multi-disciplinary work to the investigation of serious and organized crimes which threaten the integrity of whole ecosystems. The latest operations initiated by INTERPOL have specific goals such as the gathering, collecting and analysing of relevant and targeted intelligence, enhancing international communication through multi-disciplinary frameworks, and ultimately to the physical detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by member countries.

This year we are focusing on developing intelligence and analytical products in support of our member countries' efforts to enforce laws relating to the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. These products will help to identify both current international targets and emerging criminal threats. The idea is to produce strategic and tactical analytical reports that can assist member countries in intelligence-led investigations and enforcement actions.

Departure of Peter Younger

Finally, we announce the retirement of Peter Younger from INTERPOL. Peter joined the Organization in early 2006 where he immediately began work on linking INTERPOL National Central Bureaus with their respective national wildlife enforcement agencies. Peter later moved internally within INTERPOL to manage the wildlife arm of INTERPOL's Project OASIS, designed to develop law enforcement capacity within African member countries.

Some of Peter's most notable achievements during his tenure with INTERPOL include the successful operations Baba (2008), Costa (2009) and Mogatle (2010). Peter was also instrumental in the development of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme and his leadership will be greatly missed.

Prior to Peter's employment with INTERPOL he was a member of New Zealand's Wildlife Enforcement Group and their assigned INTERPOL point of contact. Peter has been connected with INTERPOL and the Wildlife Crime Working Group for nearly 15 years.

We would like to wish Peter all the best for his future adventures and to thank him for all his hard work over the many years.



get involved

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge our ever-growing relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which, in time, will not only strengthen global governance but will also streamline international support for the environmental enforcement efforts of member countries. We would like to thank the agencies below for their generous financial support.

We hope that their leadership will encourage other organizations and environmental law enforcement authorities to follow suit in supporting the Programme with seconded officers and annual contributions.

Governmental organizations

- The Netherlands Government and Police
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Environment Canada

Non-governmental organizations

- The International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Leonard X. Bosack & Bette M. Kruger Charitable Fondation
- Humane Society International
- Freeland Foundation - USAID Grant

We need action now as tomorrow may be too late.

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