



March 2010

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### Scott Priestley's profile:

*Nationality:*

*Australian*

*Languages:*

*English and French (beginner)*

*Graduated:*

*University of Sydney, Australia with a  
Masters in Environmental Law.*

*Law Enforcement:*

*Scott started his career as a ranger for  
the Australian National Parks & Wildlife  
Service. He has subsequently worked  
for numerous Australian government  
agencies dealing with different aspects of  
the environment, most recently with the  
Department of Climate Change.*

## editorial

Welcome to the third issue of the Environmental Crime Programme's newsletter.

The past months have seen the expansion of the Programme's activities in line with the increase in our capacity. With law enforcement operations, training courses, the development of new manuals and further outreach to stakeholders and partners, we are strengthening all areas of our efforts against environmental crime.

I would like to introduce Scott Priestley, who at this stage will be working with us on a short-term basis. Since joining the Programme, Scott has been building closer relations and partnerships with governments and environmental law enforcement agencies in our 188 member countries.

During this communications process, we have become aware that some stakeholders are concerned that our approach does not engage sufficiently with the broader environmental community. We would like to underline that the reality is in fact to the contrary. We believe that there are important roles to be played by inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, but these roles need to be clearly defined with respect to law enforcement. For more on this please see page 4.

Once again, if you think you can help in the fight against environmental crime, please get in touch.

**DAVID HIGGINS**  
MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME





## news

### INTERNATIONAL OPERATION SEIZES ILLEGAL WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

Operation TRAM, a month of international action targeting the illegal trade in traditional medicines containing wildlife products, has resulted in seizures worth more than EUR 10 million, a number of arrests and the investigation of several individuals and companies. Traditional medicines seized during the operation contained ingredients derived from tiger, bear and rhinoceros among many other species.

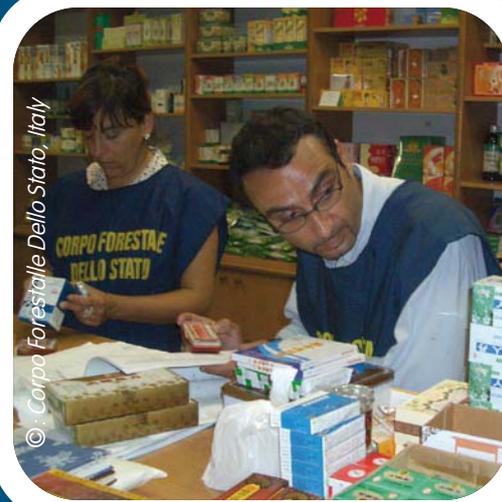
National wildlife enforcement authorities, police, customs and specialized units from 18 countries worked closely together on the global operation, from 1-28 February, focusing on targeted law enforcement activities.

The Operation was developed in response to the increasing use of endangered and protected wildlife products in traditional medicines the world over. While the international law enforcement community recognizes the important cultural history and value of traditional medicines, the risk of over-exploitation of some of the species and the illicit use of endangered ones is real.

Co-ordinated by the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme, with strong leadership provided by the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit, the Operation demonstrates the increasing diversity of the Programme's activities, following the success in September of action against the illegal trans-border movement of hazardous waste between Canada and the USA.

Countries involved in Operation TRAM were Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Georgia, India, Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

**Visit our website  
for weekly international news updates  
and more information on operation tram**



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©: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, India



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## programme activities

### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Vienna, Austria, 17 – 18 November 2009

Washington DC, USA, 7 – 11 December 2009

Canberra, Australia, 28 January 2010

It has long been recognized that an **integrated and collaborative approach** by the environmental law enforcement community is needed in order to provide structure to activities carried out by different governments and international organizations and to maximize their effectiveness.

We have recently engaged in a number of meetings with **high-level government officials** from the USA and Australia and officials from **international organizations** such as CITES, the UNODC and the WCO in an effort to co-ordinate our respective activities and areas of responsibility against environmental crime in all its forms.

The meetings produced agreements to design combined strategies intended to prevent environmental crime and combat the illegal trade and transport of protected species and controlled substances.

### TRAINING COURSES

Jakarta, Indonesia, 30 November – 4 December 2009

Tsavo West, Kenya, 25 – 29 January 2010

One of the Programme's strategic goals is to **enhance and develop** the capacity and capabilities of environmental law enforcement agencies. To this end we have been conducting **training courses** in different areas important to environmental law enforcement.

In association with CITES, we ran a **criminal intelligence analysis training course** for law enforcement officers from tiger range countries, and provided them with the structured methods and techniques needed to carry out operational and strategic analysis to combat poaching and illegal trade.

We also delivered a training course for pilots from the Kenyan Wildlife Service to maintain their existing skills and improve techniques in emergency manoeuvres for their demanding work on regular patrols.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME  
A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO GLOBAL THEFT

### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In recent months, we have represented **interpol** in numerous international meetings.

- **19<sup>th</sup> EU Wildlife Enforcement Group Meeting**

Brussels, Belgium (November)

The meeting brought together wildlife management authorities and police agencies from the EU.

- **International Seminar on Policing Environmental Crime**

Schiphol, the Netherlands (November)

Participants from 18 countries addressed the goal of improving environmental policing.

- **North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors Meeting**

Paris, France (January)

Participants discussed INTERPOL's ability to work with the network to enforce international standards protecting the marine environment.

- **Project Augias**

Budapest, Hungary (January)

The first working group of a project to design operational tools, intelligence processes and train-the-trainer sessions to combat environmental crime in the EU.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Green Customs Partners' Meeting**

Geneva, Switzerland (February)

The annual meeting of international organizations and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) engaged in customs work.

- **UN FAO - Fisheries**

Rome, Italy (February)

The outline of a partnership between INTERPOL and the UN FAO was agreed and key network partners identified.

- **EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Co-ordination Meeting**

Rome, Italy (February)

The meeting introduced the Programme and its engagement in combating crimes against natural resources.

- **Workshop on Natural Resource Management and Peacekeeping**

Geneva, Switzerland (February)

The meeting addressed the fact that many conflicts are fuelled by the illegal exploitation of natural resources. INTERPOL supports the UN approach and will participate where needed.



## The importance of partnerships

Over the past year, we at the Environmental Crime Programme have been heavily engaged in reaching out to **potential partners and supporters** from governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. We firmly believe that **international collaboration and co-ordination** are vital in order to maximize effect and avoid the duplication of efforts, and are the only way to **successfully fight environmental crime** in all its forms.

Despite our best efforts to encourage all forms of participation, some stakeholder organizations have voiced concern that we may not fully appreciate their work in **fighting** environmental crime. We apologize for this misconception and reaffirm our belief that **all organizations and agencies combating environmental crime** have their part to play and fields in which to work based on their own abilities, resources, and mandates. It is essential that all these roles **come together** to present a united front against environmental criminals.

We believe that upholding **the rule of law** is a role for governments and one that should be supported by stakeholder organizations. At INTERPOL we are mandated by our members to support them in their efforts to combat crime and we do this in accordance with the **four core functions** agreed upon by our General Assembly: secure global law enforcement communication services, operational data services and databases, operational support, and police training and development.

INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme is the only dedicated international environmental law enforcement team and at this stage we are only temporary in nature. Throughout 2010 we will be asking many governmental, private sector and non-governmental stakeholders **three basic questions**:

1. Is the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme needed?
2. What do you need from an international programme?
3. How can we make the Programme as effective as possible?

We believe that the only way to engage in combating environmental crime is with the support of the **global community**, and we look forward to **consolidating relationships** with our existing partners and **building up new contacts** in the months to come.



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## get involved

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the past months we have continued our urgent search for sustainable funding for our activities. We have focused on governmental environmental law enforcement agencies in an effort to institutionalize the Programme into their budgets. We have also sought short-term funding support from non-governmental organizations.

We would like to thank the agencies below for their generous financial support during 2009 and 2010. We hope that their leadership will encourage other organizations and environmental law enforcement authorities to follow suit in supporting the Programme.

#### Governmental organizations

“Environment Canada

“The Netherlands government and police

#### Non-governmental organizations

“The International Fund for Animal Welfare

“Care for the Wild International

“Humane Society International

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

The nature of the Programme means our appeal for funding is ongoing. Please contact us if you, your agency, or someone you know is willing or able to offer their support. We need you to spread the word, lobby for support or join our initiatives, as only together can we make a difference against environmental crime the world over.

Please feel free to contact us by email at:

[environmentalcrime@interpol.int](mailto:environmentalcrime@interpol.int)

Or by post at:

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General Secretariat

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