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The past months have seen some staff changes within the Programme. The multinational team is formed by David Higgins, Emile Lindemulder, Justin Gosling, Ioana Botezatu and Cilia Maria Ruiz-Paz. We have recently welcomed William Clark, and will soon be welcoming a seconded officer from Brazil, Marco Antônio Araújo de Lima. Concluding their valuable work within INTERPOL are Susan Van Den Brink and Jolanda T'Lam, who have analyzed specific and targeted subjects on environmental crime, on a short-term basis.

editorial

Environmental crime spans many different issues with an impact both on our security, economy and living environment. At INTERPOL, we coordinate a wide range of projects to provide a targeted response to very specific areas of crime. These projects continue to gain in strength, and the recent launch of new initiatives will serve to reinforce law enforcement action on a global level.

The INTERPOL Pollution Crime Forensics Project was launched in May at a global conference in Lakewood, USA. Forensic evidence is vital in supporting investigations and prosecutions and, given the transnational nature of environmental crime, it is crucial that countries across the world share standards and best practices. This project has already created a forum of experts and aims to develop a pollution crime forensics manual and a basic environmental forensic field kit for agencies in developing countries.

Two ambitious wildlife projects, Predator and Wisdom, have attracted important financial and departmental support. Both projects take an intelligence-led approach with the ultimate aim of dismantling international organized crime networks and, as with all our projects, they encourage involvement from both the public and private sectors.

This cross-sector approach is crucial in tackling environmental crime. We promote the idea of national environmental summits, bringing together all environmental enforcement agencies, customs, foreign aid and foreign affairs alongside national police. We have examples of successful summits in the United States, the Netherlands and Sweden, which have enabled stakeholders to better manage international environmental intelligence. Together with your INTERPOL National Central Bureau, the Environmental Crime Programme encourages you to organize this type of event in your country to give impetus to global environmental law enforcement.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I invite you to write to us at environmentalcrime@interpol.int to share your ideas and experiences. By working together, we can preserve the environment of today for the generations of tomorrow.

DAVID HIGGINS
MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME





news

QUARTERLY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

This performance report assesses the sharing of global environmental intelligence through INTERPOL channels and systems. Covering data from 2006 onwards, the emphasis is on the first quarter of 2011. The report includes best practices and recommendations on how to improve international cooperation and strengthen the intelligence process. Importantly, it provides a basis for identifying trends, routes, risks and other important enforcement strategies. The report (for official use only) is available from your National Central Bureau, with a public version published on the INTERPOL website. The next report will be available in the coming weeks.

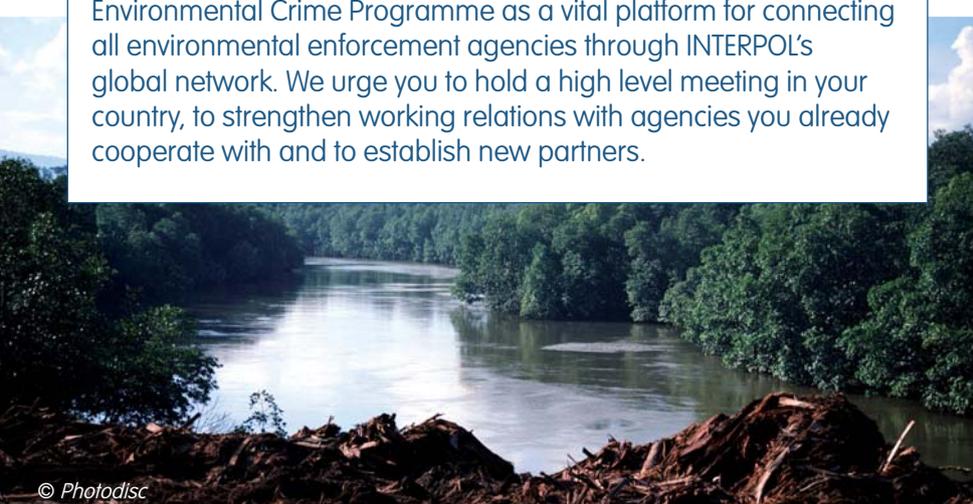
EUROPOL / INTERPOL THREAT ASSESSMENT

Analysis carried out by Europol reveals important data about organized crime groups based in the European Union who are illicitly trading endangered species of wild fauna and flora. The INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme provided criminal intelligence and recommendations to the law enforcement community based on these findings. A key recommendation is to encourage countries to form national multi-disciplinary teams, in which police, customs and environmental agencies work together to investigate and prosecute those individuals, companies, networks and organized crime groups engaged in the trafficking of endangered species.

www.europol.europa.eu (press release, 20 May 2011)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT SUMMIT

This ongoing event brings together all the environment, biodiversity and natural resource law enforcement agencies in the USA, as well as those that support international capacity building efforts. The summit has recognized law enforcement as a crucial element in maintaining stability in many fields of conservation: scientific, management, policy and legal. It has further identified the Environmental Crime Programme as a vital platform for connecting all environmental enforcement agencies through INTERPOL's global network. We urge you to hold a high level meeting in your country, to strengthen working relations with agencies you already cooperate with and to establish new partners.





programme updates

POLLUTION CRIME FORENSICS

The Pollution Crime Forensics Conference held in May provided a forum for investigators, forensic experts and prosecutors from 17 countries to exchange innovative ideas. The event also saw the launch of a new INTERPOL project on Pollution Crime Forensics which recognizes the role of forensics in successful environmental prosecutions. The meeting in Lakewood, USA, was co-hosted with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

GLOBAL E-WASTE PROJECT

The results of a one-year strategic and tactical analysis, and a general project report, will be disseminated in July to all INTERPOL National Central Bureaus. The assessment (for official use only) calls for a dedicated team to gather intelligence and analyse the global e-waste problem. The next step is to secure the funding necessary to advance the project and to disrupt those criminal networks that illegally export and dump electronic waste in developing countries around the world.

PROJECT PREDATOR

This new project, designed around the role of intelligence-led enforcement, will address tiger related crimes in the 13 tiger range countries. Combining intelligence from all sources is vital in linking, pursuing and apprehending criminals and ultimately destroying their international networks. Project Predator will provide ongoing support for intelligence exchange and analysis. Funding is currently being negotiated with various potential donors.

PROJECT WISDOM

Also based around intelligence is Project WISDOM, which will start with a basic investigative skills course in Botswana (22-27 August). Ten countries in southern Africa will be involved in an extensive intelligence and information gathering phase followed by intelligence-led enforcement actions. The Project is supported by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Humane Society International.

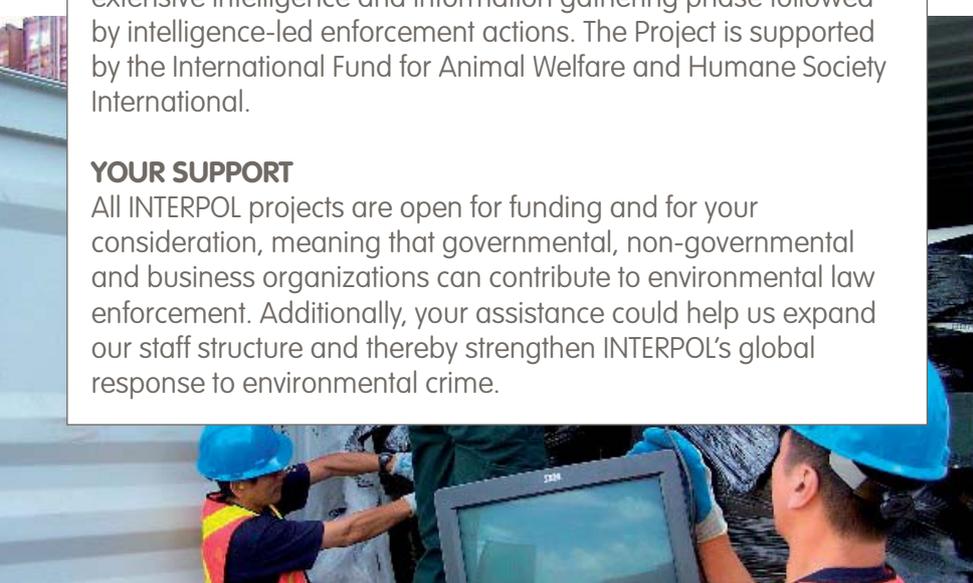
YOUR SUPPORT

All INTERPOL projects are open for funding and for your consideration, meaning that governmental, non-governmental and business organizations can contribute to environmental law enforcement. Additionally, your assistance could help us expand our staff structure and thereby strengthen INTERPOL's global response to environmental crime.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

We continue to represent INTERPOL in numerous international meetings, promoting the use of the Organization's tools and services, and encouraging cross-sector partnerships to combat environmental crime.

- **Technical Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats**
Kigali, Rwanda, March 2011
- **Expert level Seminar of the Augias Project**
Budapest, Hungary, March 2011
- **Regional Green Customs Seminar and SECI Environmental Crime Task Force Meeting**
Budapest, Hungary, March 2011
- **European Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law - Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (IMPEL-TFS) Conference**
Kassel, Germany, April 2011
- **22nd Meeting of the Wildlife Trade Enforcement Group EU**
Brussels, Belgium, April 2011
- **Symposium on Private-Public Partnerships against Transnational Organized Crime**
Vienna, Austria, April 2011
- **CITES Ivory and Rhino Enforcement Task Force**
Nairobi, Kenya, May 2011
- **London Partner Meetings**
London, United Kingdom, May 2011
- **2nd Meeting Waste Shipments Compliance and Enforcement Platform**
Brussels, Belgium, May 2011
- **Waste Day - Panel Discussion**
Tilburg, The Netherlands, May 2011
- **Legal Prosecutors and Investigators Network Against Voluntary Marine Pollution**
Marseille, France, June 2011
- **Wildlife Detector Dogs – exchange of experiences of existing wildlife detector dog programmes**
Treviso, Italy, June 2011
- **9th International Conference on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement**
Whistler, Canada, June 2011
- **Meeting on Proposal to include Environmental Crime on SOMTC Agenda**
Bangkok, Thailand, June 2011





future events

17th Meeting of INTERPOL Pollution Crime Working Group and 23rd Meeting of INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group

The INTERPOL Working Groups on Environmental Crime will take place this year from 14 to 18 November in Bangkok, Thailand.

The working groups give an excellent opportunity for member countries to voice their views regarding the enforcement of environmental laws. Government officials exchange skills but also assist in the development of regionally-based or subject-based environmental crime groups. The working groups also enhance working partnerships between nations against international environmental crime. Your presence and active involvement has an added value to global environmental efforts.

Last year's Pollution Crime Working Group focused on specific pollution projects and the outcomes for the stakeholders, while the Wildlife Crime Working Group worked on subjects such as communication and intelligence, fisheries and forestry, but also tigers, elephants and rhinos.

High Level Police and Customs Seminar Developing a Dynamic Response to Tiger Crime

This seminar will start on Tuesday 14 November 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand, to coincide with the above-mentioned meetings of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Working Groups.

The event is aimed at high level executive officers from police and customs agencies, to raise their awareness of the plight of wild tigers, the threats they face and the enforcement measures necessary to combat such threats. Another objective is to foster greater cross-border cooperation between police and customs agencies, other relevant enforcement agencies and inter-governmental organizations.

INTERPOL is organizing this seminar on behalf of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC), the members of which include the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank and the World Customs Organization.

See our website for all the conference documentation.



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get involved

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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
- Freeland Foundation

Act now as tomorrow may be too late.

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