



INTERPOL

FACT SHEET

Environmental crime

Environmental crime takes many different forms. Broadly speaking, wildlife crime is the illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna; forestry crime includes illegal logging and related activity; illegal fishing and linked crimes such as document fraud are considered fisheries crime; and pollution crime is the illicit trade and disposal of hazardous or electronic waste. Criminals stand to gain high profits at a low risk of exposure from engaging in these types of crimes.

Environmental crime is an international security issue characterized by transnational trafficking, a criminal supply chain and links with other crimes. It is not limited to the acts of wildlife poaching and trafficking, polluting, illegal logging or illegal fishing, but also includes crimes which facilitate or accompany these acts such as fraud, document falsification, money laundering and corruption.

INTERPOL and its member countries lead and participate in a number of innovative projects and operations designed to enhance environmental security.

► PROJECTS

Five long-term projects support member countries in their efforts to protect the environment through training courses, operations, information exchange and intelligence analysis. These activities are guided by the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee and its Fisheries, Pollution and Wildlife Crime Working Groups.

- **Project Eden** – to address the illegal trade in electronic waste and the illegal disposal of pollutants.
- **Project Leaf (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests)** – to combat illegal logging, the illicit timber trade and related crimes.
- **Project Predator** – to enhance law enforcement capacity to combat the poaching and trafficking of Asian big cats and other wildlife species.
- **Project Scale** – to enable member countries to identify, deter and disrupt transnational fisheries crime.
- **Project Wisdom** – to establish in Sub-Saharan Africa a comprehensive programme to effectively disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal syndicates primarily engaged in the illegal trade of African elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn.

INTERPOL is one of five members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) whose mission is to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime.

► INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

Investigative Support Teams (ISTs) - INTERPOL can provide case-specific investigative and technical support through the deployment of Investigative Support Teams. These teams consist of officers and analysts with specialized forensic, analytical and technical skills and crime area expertise who support national law enforcement authorities in ongoing investigations.

Environmental crime

Support provided by an IST can include:

- Criminal intelligence analysis of telephone call data, financial records and criminal networks
- Digital forensic analysis of seized electronic equipment
- Identification and DNA analysis of seized products
- Language and technical support in interviewing suspects and victims
- Database queries on entities identified or seized over the course of an investigation

Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings (RIACMs) - INTERPOL facilitates investigative and analytical case meetings to allow investigators from different countries and regions to discuss transnational cases of mutual interest and share information.

National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs) - A NEST is a multi-disciplinary team of experts from several national agencies including police, customs, environmental ministries and the prosecutor's office who work together to maintain national environmental security. NESTs can be derived from or contributed to by other task forces which already exist in the country. INTERPOL has developed a guide to assist member countries in setting up a NEST.

► **CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS**

Criminal intelligence analysis supports the decision-making process by helping investigators, managers and other resource owners to make the most efficient and effective use of their limited resources. INTERPOL can produce intelligence and analytical reports, using information supplied by member countries, partners and other sources to support targeted law enforcement activities.

INTERPOL's intelligence analysts can create several types of products:

- Network analysis of organized criminal networks and corporate structures;
- Mapping of the movements of vessels, vehicles and individuals;
- Analysis of data forensically extracted from electronic devices;
- Communications data analysis relating to telephones, bank accounts, e-mails and messaging applications;
- Identification of international links between cases and criminals;
- Timelines of events relating to criminal and enforcement activity;
- Image analysis;
- Identification of crime trends and emerging threats.



INTERPOL

► **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Contact us via our web site. For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.

► **Twitter:** @INTERPOL_HQ

► **YouTube:** INTERPOLHQ

► **WWW.INTERPOL.INT**

