



INTERPOL

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME

To support and enhance the governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of Asian big cats

Situation

Tigers are on the brink of extinction. The vanishing population of this top order predator, as well as of other Asian big cats such as the snow leopard, is an issue of global concern with vast and far reaching consequences. Today, the greatest threat to big cats is the criminals who control a highly lucrative illegal trade spanning countries and continents. This trade is becoming increasingly organized and is linked to other forms of serious crime including bribery and corruption, financial crime and firearms offences.



PROJECT PREDATOR

Response

The law enforcement response to big cat crime must engage the whole criminal justice system and combine a multi-disciplinary approach with the use of advanced, intelligence-led methods of investigation. INTERPOL is strategically placed to provide a wide range of tools and services to support its member countries in this endeavor.

Project Predator encourages and supports member countries to target the individuals and networks controlling the illegal big cat trade, bring them to justice and seize any assets obtained through their crimes. It works in a number of areas to increase communication, coordination and collaboration between high level enforcement experts and managers from the Asian big cat range countries, and investigators and analysts working at ground level, drawing upon regional, national and international resources and expertise.

The project works closely with Asian big cat range countries, dedicated wildlife enforcement networks and other relevant

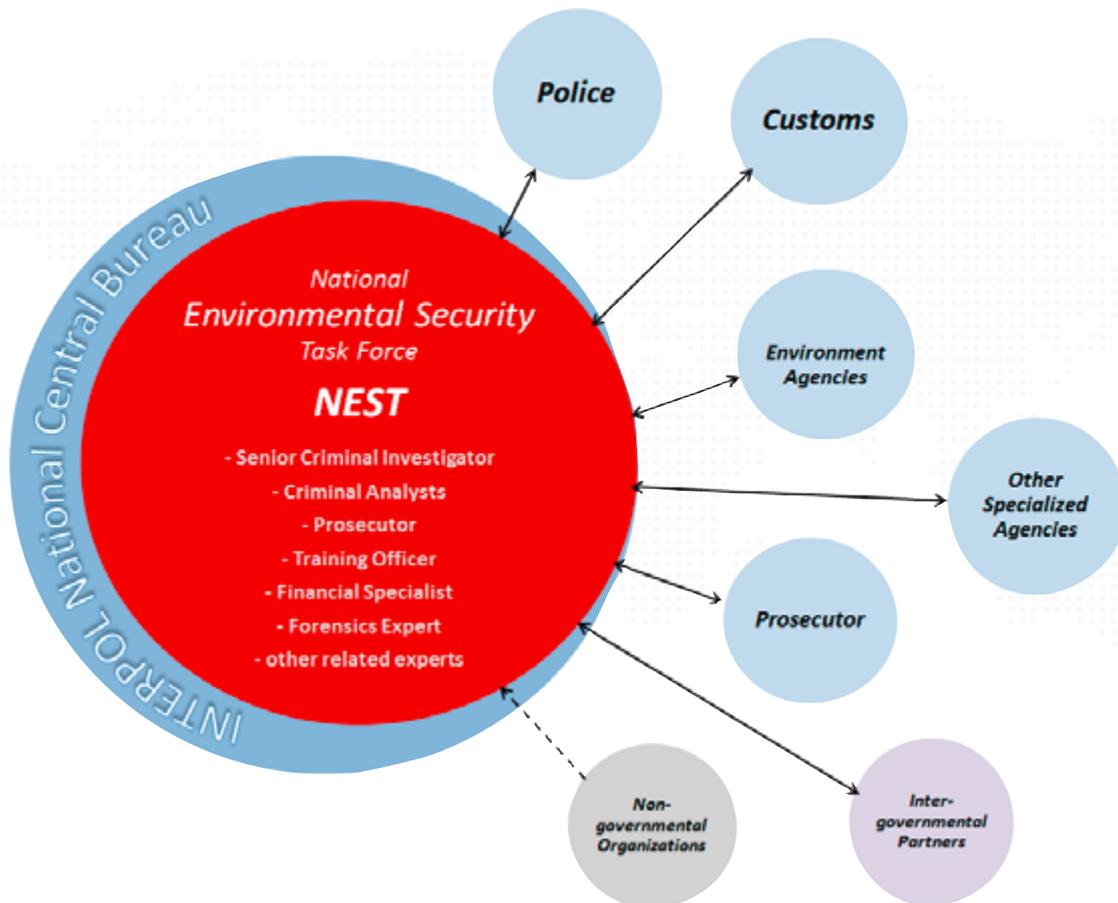
stakeholders. It provides the means for member countries to work closely together to dismantle the organised, transboundary criminal groups responsible for decimating big cat populations.

Activities

- Stimulating and supporting intelligence-led investigations
- Gathering, analysing and sharing intelligence
- Facilitating international law enforcement operations
- Assisting with forensic analysis of wildlife products and electronic devices
- Organizing training courses and investigative planning meetings
- Promoting National Environmental Security Seminars (NESS)
- Encouraging the creation of National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs)
- Developing and promoting partnerships
- Strengthening the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) as an institution
- Enhance awareness through increased use of social media

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National Environmental Security Task Force (NESTs)



A multi-agency law enforcement taskforce is a firmly established team of experts who work together to address a specific crime issue. This generally means bringing enforcement officers with a variety of specialist skills to combat a criminal threat to social, political, economic or environmental norms. A NEST is a specialised multi-agency taskforce established with the objective of addressing environmental crime issues.

NESTs can be derived from or contribute to other task forces which already exist in the country. NESTs benefit from their multidisciplinary structure (comprising police, customs, environmental and other specialized agencies), as well as utilising the National Central Bureau to access INTERPOL's existing intelligence handling and crime analysis capacity, and the secure connection INTERPOL has with its 190 member countries.

INTERPOL has developed a guide to assist member countries to set up a NEST. The NEST Guide provides legal guidelines and practical examples, and suggested steps for establishing a NEST. We invite you to adopt this multidisciplinary approach to environmental enforcement. The guide is available on the INTERPOL website.

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