

# TEC News

Newsletter for the Transnational Environmental Crime Project No. 2, Nov. - Feb. 2012

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the second issue of *TEC News* which brings you up to date with recent project activity.

The political salience of transnational environmental crime is increasing and we are pleased to be closely involved with some of these developments. In the months since the first newsletter, INTERPOL has held meetings of its pollution and crime working groups in Bangkok, the Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime has met at the UN in Bangkok to focus on quantifying illegal trade, and the media in Australia has contained a number of reports on TEC relevant issues. The UK Home Office has identified environmental crime as a key priority for academic and scientific research on organised crime. John Scanlon, Secretary-General of CITES, drew attention to the problems of illegal trade in his presentation to the February 2012 meeting of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF).

As this issue shows, members of the project team have continued to be active in their engagement with policy, practitioners and the academic community and in contributing to and, indeed, helping to lead, debates on these issues.

We are also building an informal, knowledge-based network of PhD students working in Australia and elsewhere on TEC-related issues. This initiative is in its very early stages but we would be delighted to hear from PhD students whose research fits with our broad themes and who would like to be in touch with other PhD students working in this field.

We will continue to report our publications, activities and events through this newsletter. You can also access this information by visiting our website, [ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec](http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec)

(Prof) Lorraine Elliott, TEC Project Director



Australian National University



University of Wollongong



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

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Transnational Environmental Crime Project  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

Phone: +61 (0)2 6125 2165  
Fax: + 61 (0)2 6125 8010

Email: [tec@anu.edu.au](mailto:tec@anu.edu.au)  
Website: [ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec](http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec)

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## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### INTERPOL'S David Higgins meets with TEC Project team members



(Left-Right) Mr. Grant Pink, Mr. David Higgins, Ms. Sophie Saydan

Mr. David Higgins, INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme (IECP) Manager, met with TEC Project Visiting Fellow Mr. Grant Pink and Project Research Assistant Sophie Saydan on 9 December 2011. The purpose of Mr. Higgins's visit was to provide him with detailed briefings of the Project, and its synergies and linkages to the work of IECP in the lead up to the series of INTERPOL Environmental Crime Working Group meetings in Bangkok 13-17 February 2012.

### INTERPOL Environmental Crime Working Groups meetings in Bangkok, 13-17 February 2012

Professor Lorraine Elliott and Grant Pink attended INTERPOL's 23rd Meeting of the Wildlife Crime Working Group and 17th Meeting of the Pollution Crime Working Group held jointly, 13-17 February 2012, in Bangkok. The Working Groups saw presentations and discussions with stakeholders on how to better brand and

market INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme, the projects and environmental enforcement accomplishments. Professor Elliott delivered a paper on the role that academic research can contribute to 'marketing' INTERPOL's work in this field. For more information visit [www.interpol.int/Media/Files/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Meetings/International-Chiefs-of-Environmental-Compliance-and-Enforcement-201203/Recommendations-for-branding](http://www.interpol.int/Media/Files/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Meetings/International-Chiefs-of-Environmental-Compliance-and-Enforcement-201203/Recommendations-for-branding)



Professor Elliott (far left) with members of the Australian delegation (Left-Right) Mr. Luke Bond, Mr. Grant Pink, Mr. Mark Livermore, Ms. Annaliese Caston

### Project team meets with Australia's National Central Bureau (INTERPOL Canberra)

Grant Pink and Project Research Assistant Sophie Saydan held discussions on 25 January 2012 with Mr. Rob Blount, Team Leader, Australian Federal Police (AFP) INTERPOL-EUROPOL Desk. Discussions surrounded planning for the Australian National Environmental Enforcement Summit to be held in February 2012. This national summit will be a precursor to the International Environmental Enforcement Summit to be held at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France 27-29 March 2012.

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## The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia Regional Partner's Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) 17 February 2012



ARPEC Participants

Professor Elliott and Grant Pink also attended the 12th ARPEC meeting in Bangkok, where Professor Elliott presented a paper on the challenges of quantifying illegal environmental trade. This meeting was attended by government, non-government and academic delegates and focused on mapping and quantifying illegal trade of environmentally sensitive commodities. More information about ARPEC is available at [www.unep.org/roap/](http://www.unep.org/roap/)

## Visiting Fellow elected to INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Committee

The TEC project is delighted to announce that during the recent INTERPOL Environmental Crime meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, Mr. Grant Pink, TEC Visiting Fellow was elected to INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Committee.

Mr. Pink, who is also Director of the Regulatory Compliance Policy and Practice Section within the Environment Assessment and Compliance Division of Department of International Relations and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) is one of four executive officers (Australia, Canada, South Africa and USA) on the committee who provide their executive leadership and organisational skills to support the work of INTERPOL's Environment Crime Programme and its associated environmental crime working groups.

For more information on INTERPOL and its environmental crime effort visit [www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Environmental-crime](http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Environmental-crime)



Mr. Grant Pink

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## National Environmental Enforcement Summit held in Canberra, 29 February, 2012



Ms. Kimberley Dripps

The inaugural Australian National Environmental Enforcement Summit (the National Summit) was held on 29 February 2012 in Canberra.

The National Summit was co-hosted by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (DSEWPaC) and Australia's National Central Bureau (the Australian Federal Police (AFP)) principally through its INTERPOL Desk. The event was supported by the TEC project and the Australasian Law Enforcement and Regulators neTwork (AELERT).

Australia is one of 10 countries around the world to host such an event. The intention of the National Summits is to bring law enforcement agencies such as police, customs and environmental agencies together in an effort to combat transnational environmental crime more effectively. Summits held elsewhere have proven very effective in providing momentum and enhancing coordination for addressing environmental crime.

Presentations, input from participants and the Summit Report also formed the basis of the briefing material for DSEWPaC's Deputy Secretary Dripps' attendance as head of the Australian delegation at the International Chiefs of Environmental Enforcement Agencies Summit held at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France from 27 - 29 March 2012.

*Grant Pink*

## OTHER NEWS

### Scottish Government appoints Environmental Crime Task force

On 14 November 2011, Scottish Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead announced that an Environmental Crime Taskforce was being established in Scotland to tackle the growing problem of environmental crime. Mr. Lochhead told an Environmental Crime Summit in Edinburgh that the taskforce would be dealing with the growing issue of organised crime operating in the environment sector.

Other measures designed to tackle environment crime were discussed at the summit, including the need to further environmental legislation to make it simpler and more effectual; increased collaboration and intelligence sharing between enforcement agencies leading to more successful prosecutions; development of better targeted penalties for environmental offences.

Source [mea-ren.org/ecmu\\_list.php?id=360](http://mea-ren.org/ecmu_list.php?id=360)

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## World's first Eco-Battalion



Nicaraguan Army Gen. Julio César Aviles. Source [www.dialogo-americas.com/en\\_GB](http://www.dialogo-americas.com/en_GB)

The Nicaraguan government announced on 30 November 2011 that they would be treating the crime of illegal timber trafficking as a matter of national security and unveiled the world's first Ecological Battalion. This Eco-Battalion is a special military division within the Nicaraguan Army tasked with protecting Nicaragua's natural resources. For more see [www.dialogo-americas.com/en\\_GB/articles/rmisa/features/regional\\_news/2012/02/13/aa-nicaragua-eco-battalion](http://www.dialogo-americas.com/en_GB/articles/rmisa/features/regional_news/2012/02/13/aa-nicaragua-eco-battalion)

## Forthcoming UK National Environmental Crime conference

The University College London's (UCL) Department of Security and Crime Studies will be hosting the National Environmental Crime Conference 2012 on Tuesday, 17 April 2012 at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, London. For more details about this event see [www.ucl.ac.uk/forensic-sciences/forensic-sc-news-publication/national\\_environmental\\_crime\\_conference](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/forensic-sciences/forensic-sc-news-publication/national_environmental_crime_conference)

## CONTACT US

Transnational Environmental Crime Project  
Department of International Relations  
School of International, Political and  
Strategic Studies  
College of Asia and the Pacific  
Australian National University (ANU)  
Canberra ACT 0200  
Phone: +61 (0) 6125 2165  
E-mail: [tec@anu.edu](mailto:tec@anu.edu)  
Website: [ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec/](http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/ir/tec/)



The Transnational Environmental Crime Project office is located in the [Hedley Bull Centre](#) situated on the corner of Liversidge and Garran Roads on the ANU campus.