



INTERPOL

# FORESTRY CRIME

The INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme supports member countries to strengthen the response of law enforcement agencies, identify criminals and their modus operandi as well as to disrupt transnational criminal operations related to forestry crimes.

Due to the need for a strong and organized law enforcement response to illegal logging and trade, INTERPOL enables investigators, criminal intelligence analysts, police, forestry law enforcement institutions, customs and tax authorities to advance and coordinate internationally their intelligence, analytical and investigative objectives.

INTERPOL collaborates with international institutions and the national Ministries of the law enforcement agencies globally, with the joint mission of addressing transnational organized crime against forests and the environment.

## SITUATION

Illegal logging and the international trade in illicitly harvested timber is a serious, international crime estimated to account for 15-30 per cent of all timber traded globally.

It has disastrous economic, environmental and social consequences. The trade of illegally logged timber has an estimated value of between USD 51-152 billion annually, representing a major loss in tax revenues. Moreover, it is responsible for deforestation, habitat loss, species extinction, and contributes to global warming, while the illicit proceeds from forestry crime may be used to fund conflicts.



## RESPONSE

Environmental criminals are often involved in acts of corruption, money laundering, tax evasion, violence, and other related crimes. INTERPOL supports member countries to reinforce their forestry law enforcement capacities and ensure international cooperation between national agencies; analysing all types of information that facilitate or accompany illegal forestry activities and other related crimes.

INTERPOL is strategically placed to provide a wide range of tools and services to support its member countries.

The INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme assists member countries by identifying the criminal activities along the timber supply chain, providing training to enhance investigative and analytical capabilities, facilitating multi-agency collaboration, providing criminal intelligence analysis leading to decisive enforcement action, and encouraging systematic intelligence sharing between countries.

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## SHARING INFORMATION ON CRIME

One of INTERPOL's most important functions is to help police in its member countries share critical crime-related information using our system of international notices. Police can use our notices to alert law enforcement in other countries of potential threats, or to ask for assistance in solving crimes.

INTERPOL Notices that can be used in support of transnational environmental crime investigations:

- **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of a person wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal with a view to his/her extradition.
- **Blue Notice:** To locate, identify or obtain information on a person of interest in a criminal investigation.
- **Green Notice:** To warn about a person's criminal activities if that person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing an imminent threat and danger to persons or property.
- **Purple Notice:** To provide information on modi operandi, procedures, objects, devices or hiding places used by criminals.

## INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT

**Investigative Support Teams (IST)** - 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.

**Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings (RIACM)** - 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 (NEST)** - 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 other task forces which may 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 for investigators, managers and other law enforcement to make the most efficient and effective use of their limited resources and ensure an intelligence led policing approach.

The Illicit Markets Analysis File is a purposed-built criminal intelligence database created for the purpose of collecting data from INTERPOL Member Countries. This database holds intelligence specifically related to transnational organized crime in the field of environmental, illicit goods and global health issues.



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