



INTERPOL

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TASK FORCE

Environmental crime is a growing, organized and sophisticated international crime. An international and multi-agency response is necessary to successfully combat it. The INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme recommends member countries establish National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs), which are designed to address transnational environmental crime through a coordinated, collaborative and strategic response.

NEST

Bringing compliance and enforcement agencies together to maintain environmental security



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY SEMINAR

The first recommended step in the process of establishing a NEST is to hold a National Environmental Security Seminar (NESS). This is a high-level meeting aimed at bringing together all relevant experts, stakeholders and decision makers responsible for environmental compliance and enforcement to identify national environmental security needs, capacities and priorities, and to develop strategies for combating environmental crime using INTERPOL tools and services.

Objectives

- **Connect** national agencies and other authorities responsible for environmental enforcement;
- **Develop** synergies in the management of environmental information at the national level;
- **Collate** information using an intelligence-led approach, using INTERPOL resources;
- **Support** a multi-disciplinary approach to environmental security;
- **Reinforce** connections to the INTERPOL network through a NEST located in the National Central Bureau (NCB); and
- **Generate** interest for cooperation and structural support from partners.

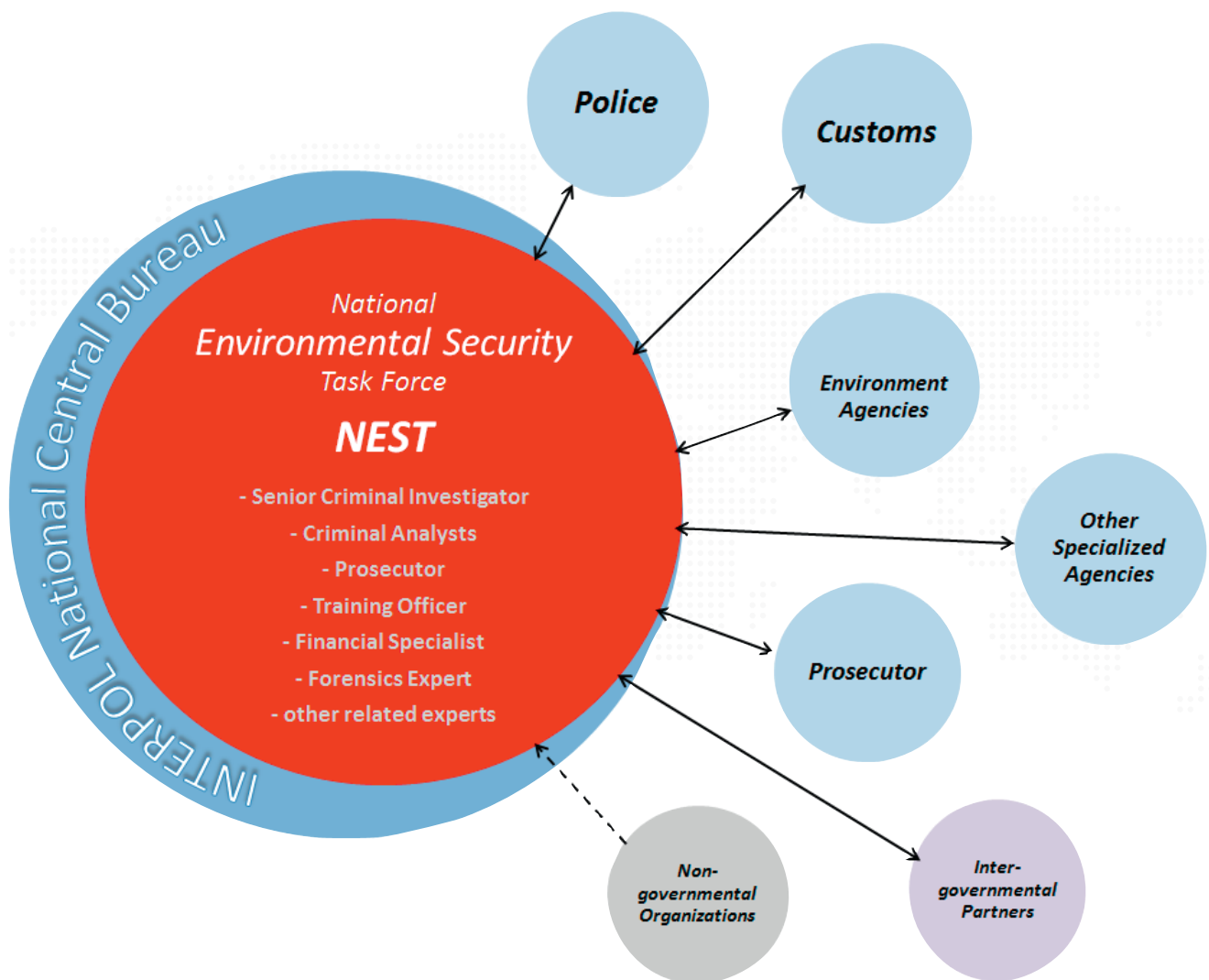
The NESS is designed to lead to the formation of a National Environmental Security Steering Committee (NESSC), which will give guiding direction to the establishment of a National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST).

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY STEERING COMMITTEE

The National Environmental Security Steering Committee (NESSC) should act as the guiding body for the formation and operation of the NEST. It is also vital to ensuring effective communication with regional and international partners, including INTERPOL. It is recommended that the NESSC be composed of heads, or their appropriately delegated representatives, of the national agencies with responsibility for environmental enforcement and compliance. These could include:

- Head of police
- Head of customs
- Heads of environmental agencies
- Head prosecutor

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A task force is a firmly established multi-disciplinary team of experts from various national agencies including police, customs, environmental and other specialized agencies, 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. By locating a NEST within the INTERPOL NCB, it will benefit from direct access to the Organization's intelligence databases and secure communication systems which connect its 190 member countries.

INTERPOL has developed a guide to assist member countries in setting up a NEST. The NEST guide provides examples of NESTs, legal guidelines and a recommended process to follow. We invite you to adopt this multi-disciplinary approach to environmental enforcement.

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