



2015 Outcome Document

2nd International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference
Singapore, 16-17 November 2015

and

2nd Meeting of the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee (ECEC)
Singapore, 18 November 2015

Conclusion¹

Environmental crime² is increasingly being recognised as a threat to national, regional and global security. Its impact upon our economy, political structures, community and global health is far reaching and only now becoming more evident as to its impact upon us all.

Until now, the low risk of detection and significant penalties, have provided a safe environment for criminal networks to operate. Taking advantage of the complexity of this crime type, criminals operating internationally have already flourished, while the international law enforcement community has only recently started to effectively address this crime.

The gravity of this type of crime and its impact upon us all has attracted attention from the highest levels of government and the global community, as evidenced by the number of resolutions adopted by intergovernmental bodies and public statements made by figureheads over the last few years.

It is recognized that reducing consumption of and demand for illegal and unsustainably sourced environmental commodities is pivotal in addressing transnational environmental crime. Law enforcement authorities have an important role to play in ensuring supply chains are free from illicit activities.

Crime convergence around environmental commodities is further contributing to the erosion of rule of law. One reason why the environmental sector is vulnerable is because of the lack of institutionalized multiagency cooperation in many areas of the world, incapacitating appropriate governance response. This is further compounded by the low priority attributed by law enforcement to environmental crimes, which can be explained by the lack of understanding as to the threat and impact it has on public health and security.

Environmental compliance and enforcement must be understood in the global context to effectively disrupt criminal acts. It is therefore critical for member countries, INTERPOL General Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme to:

¹ This document sets out the insights and views expressed by participants during the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Events. It is not a negotiated document, but rather a reflection of the broad perspectives and thinking of the participants that does not necessarily represent country or institutional positions or consensus on all issues.

² Crimes related to environmental quality (such as pollution, illicit trade of waste), biodiversity (illegal trade of protected fauna), natural resources (such as forestry, fisheries and minerals) and climate change.

1. Maintain and increase the political focus and momentum on environmental crime at the national, regional and international level.
2. Strive to contribute to the implementation of environment, biodiversity and natural resource security resolutions adopted at intergovernmental platforms and improve the alignment with the United Nations strategic framework. Particular reference should be drawn to the 2014 INTERPOL General Assembly Resolution No. 3 AG-2014-RES-03 and Resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session on 27 June 2014 RES 1/3.
3. Analyse the role of law enforcement in mitigating climate change and implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to drive environmental security.
4. Advocate and enhance the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee and its working groups on fisheries, pollution and wildlife crime. As well, further develop institutional linkages to the INTERPOL General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Assembly and other United Nations entities as appropriate.
5. Encourage INTERPOL as well as its Fisheries, Pollution and Wildlife Crime Working Groups to compile a directory of national competent law enforcement authorities on environmental crime matters within all member countries.
6. Highlight and support the role of investigations in enhancing the rule of law.
7. Enhance anti-corruption and financial crime investigations to identify and disrupt the criminal networks that erode environmental security.
8. Reinforce and support the role of prosecutors and the judiciary in addressing environmental security threats.
9. Assess current and emerging environmental crime threats, and conduct regular crime mapping to provide an evidence base for policy, legislative and law enforcement interventions and prioritization.
10. Maintain our collective focus on the delivery of the Action Points identified during the 1st International Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Conference, namely;
 - (a) **National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST):** To promote a multidisciplinary approach for collaboration, communication and cooperation to address obstacles and opportunities at all levels;
 - (b) **Information & Intelligence Assessment/Analysis:** To facilitate intelligence and assessments to identify threats, transfer information, support investigations and extend current databases into other related crime areas;
 - (c) **International Capacity Building Platform:** To operationalize an international or regional capacity-building platform to facilitate the effective delivery of capacity development initiatives, materials and activities;
 - (d) **International Environmental Security Task Force:** To establish an international task force to harmonize approaches for addressing environmental crimes, strengthen legislative/legal frameworks, connect countries and foster inter-agency communication.
11. Strengthen and support the work conducted under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and the Green Customs Initiative as these are successful platforms of collaboration at the international level.