



# INTERPOL

## FACT SHEET

# *Environmental security*

Environmental crime takes many different forms. Broadly speaking, wildlife crime is the illegal exploitation of the world's wild flora and fauna; forestry crime includes illegal logging and related activity; illegal fishing and facilitative crimes such as document fraud are considered fisheries crime; and pollution crime includes the illicit trade and disposal of hazardous or electronic waste. Environmental crime is not only an economic or conservation issue, it is an international security challenge as it undermines good governance and rule of law. Environmental crime is not limited to poaching, trafficking, pollution, illegal logging or illegal fishing, but also includes facilitative crimes such as fraud, document falsification, money laundering and corruption.

INTERPOL and its member countries lead and participate in a number of activities, including operational and investigative support, to enhance environmental security around the globe.

### ► ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS FOR COOPERATION

We have several projects to support the world's police in their efforts through training, operational support, information exchange and intelligence analysis. The following activities are further guided by the INTERPOL Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee and the Fisheries and Forestry, Pollution and Wildlife Crime Working Groups:

- **Wildlife crime:** Targeted law enforcement interventions, such as Operation Thunderbird, which are designed to enhance the impact of conservational and sustainability efforts towards the world's fauna and flora. In 2017, Operation Thunderbird resulted in the identification of nearly 900 suspects and 1,300 seizures of illicit wildlife and timber products worth an estimated USD 5.1 million.
- **Fisheries crime:** Coordination of global and regional investigative and operational activities. The emphasis is placed on supporting developing countries through mentorship and investigative support, especially where there are links to converging crimes such as human trafficking.
- **Forestry crime:** Capacity building and operational support to law enforcement agencies in timber exporting and importing countries. The objective is to enhance member country responses to criminals involved in illegal logging and deforestation, as well as tax evasion, corruption, document fraud and money laundering.
- **Pollution and related crimes:** Conducted in June 2017, the country-led enforcement Operation 30 Days of Action tackled the illegal disposal of and illicit trade in hazardous waste. 483 individuals and 264 companies were reported for waste crimes and violations by national authorities and over 1.5 million tons of illicit waste was detected.

### ► BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships are critical to the work we do. INTERPOL is a proud member of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), whose mission is to strengthen criminal justice systems and provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime.

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### ► 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 by other task forces which may already exist in the country. INTERPOL has developed a guide to assist member countries in setting up a NEST.

### ► ILLICIT MARKETS ANALYSIS FILE

Criminal intelligence analysis supports the decision-making process for investigators, managers and other law enforcement partners, enabling them to make the most of their limited resources and ensure an intelligence led policing approach.

The Illicit Markets Analysis File, which features *iBase* and *i2 Analysts Notebook* solutions, pulls together information from INTERPOL's databases, open sources, international organizations, the public and private sectors. It has been developed in consultation with INTERPOL National Central Bureaus, and meets the INTERPOL Rules on Processing of Data.



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### ► CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact us via our web site. For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.

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